

The Maryland



Yellowthroat

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President's Corner

By Barbara Johnson

Writing on Thanksgiving Eve, I contemplate sanctuary, now scarce to so many, human and wild. Owing to the fortunate time and place of my birth, the only refuge I ever seek is from my busy, urban day-to-day life.

"Sanctuary" is defined as:

1. a place of safety; *synonyms: refuge, haven, oasis, shelter, retreat;*
2. a nature reserve; *synonyms: park, reservation, preserve, conservation area*

Irish Grove in Somerset County, the largest of the eight MOS sanctuaries, fits both definitions. Yes, it's precious wildlife habitat; 1570 acres of marsh, loblolly pine and fields, but the farmhouse visitor log reveals that plenty of people find sanctuary here, too.

Early in November I visited Irish Grove for the annual fall weekend cleanup. Several "regulars" had arrived earlier in the week, including Dotty Mumford who oversees Irish Grove's upkeep, and runs the kitchen on these weekends. Mike Knott had been applying professional construction expertise to the farmhouse and outbuildings all week. Kevin Graff had been clearing trails for days.

More volunteers arrived, including Tri-county Bird Club members Paul Bystrak and Marylee Ross, who visit Irish Grove frequently, and MOS Sanctuary Chair Brent Byers. Everyone found a niche. They pulled Virginia creeper from the farmhouse siding, scraped and painted soffits, and vacuumed the rooms. The workers weeded, pruned shrubs, and toppled and cut up a dead cherry tree. The outhouses were heroically scrubbed. A sturdy new bridge, pre-assembled and painted by Paul

was installed by a committee on the Rail Trail. To accommodate the Barn Owl recently seen on the premises, a new nest box was positioned high in an outbuilding.

Dotty's and Marylee's good cooking sustained the volunteers. Around the tables, Irish Grove stories abounded. Paul's recollections reached back to his first foray to the property with Chan Robbins in 1967. Mike recounted a harrowing ambush by an enraged raccoon whose kits were under the house.

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Dotty told of building a trail bridge in the marsh, when each hammer blow triggered a cacophony of cackling rails.

We were there to work, but we took breaks to bird. We walked Rumbly Point Road (the eastern border of the sanctuary) at daybreak, the morning light breaking gloriously over the wetland and rousing Sedge and Marsh Wrens to chitter in the grasses. We went by car or foot to Rumbly Point overlooking Pocomoke Sound, counting meadowlarks, shorebirds, eagles, ducks and many others. And as day faded, we watched as Northern Harriers made their final dipping, diving passes through the marsh and then gave way to Short-eared Owls, emerging from their roosts for an evening hunt.

With the day's work finished, in the company of fellow nature lovers, there was nothing--TV, Wifi, working cell phone--to distract from a leisurely conversation, or stargazing, or owl listening, or a good read from the house library. Irish Grove is sanctuary in every sense of the word. How grateful I am for those who have contributed the foresight, money, planning, and all the work that made and continues to preserve beautiful Irish Grove and all our MOS sanctuaries.



Did You Know?

The Cornell Laboratory for Ornithology E-Store offers MOS members a special \$25 rate for subscription to its Birds of North America app. This is a significant savings over its normal annual subscription rate of \$42. Go to http://store.birds.cornell.edu/Birds_of_North_America/s/35.htm.

Once at the store page, select a 1 year membership, add to cart, insert the code 'BNAMOS' into the promotions field at the bottom left hand side of the page, click

'apply', and the \$25 rate will appear. Proceed to checkout.

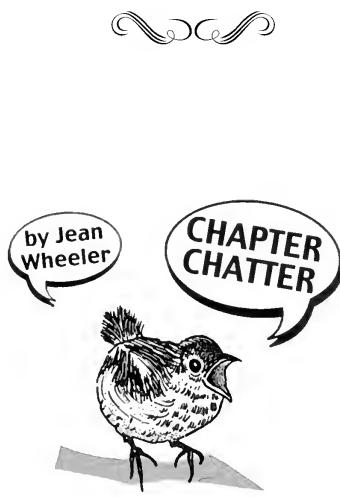
Dave Brinker, Natural Resources Program, Maryland DNR, continues his work with Northern Goshawks in the central Appalachians. (*Editor's Note: the Sept/Oct 2013 Yellowthroat contains a summary, written by Maureen Harvey and Dave Brinker, of the project at that time*). While there are no breeding pairs currently in Maryland, Dave and his colleagues continue to monitor known goshawk breeding territories in the Allegheny Mountains. Part of Dave's goshawk work is video nest monitoring to investigate factors responsible for goshawk nest failure. The equipment to accomplish video monitoring was acquired via the MOS Northern Goshawk fund. In a new and developing effort the central Appalachian goshawk project is experimenting with new GPS/GSM telemetry technology to better understand how breeding goshawks use the diverse mix of forest habitats available to them. These new telemetry devices are essentially small backpacks containing GPS receivers, data loggers, and cell phones with instructions to "phone home" periodically to deliver very accurate locations.

Dave also continues his work with Snowy Owls through Project Snowstorm. Dakota, a Snowy Owl fitted with a transmitter last winter near Jamestown, ND in early February 2016, was the first Snowy Owl of autumn 2016 to return south from the Arctic in early November. Check out the work of the Project Snowstorm team on their website, www.projectsnowstorm.org.

Want to help? As always, money is the key. Both of the above innovative efforts are funded via private donations to a Goshawk Conservation project of MOS. The more donations, the better the equipment, and the more that can be learned to assist with Northern Goshawk and Snowy Owl conservation. For example, the goshawk project needs to upgrade some of the video equipment and fund GPS/GSM transmitters. The Snowy Owl work continues to fit owls with transmitters and fund necropsies of dead

owls from across the wintering range in the U.S. All donations are tax deductible and any amount will be a help. Make your check payable to Maryland Ornithological Society, with a notation on the memo line as to which project you wish to support. Then mail the check to Maryland Ornithological Society, c/o Treasurer, 4141 Quail Way, Havre de Grace, MD 21078-1612.

Maryanne Dolan,
Secretary, MOS



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Peter and Barbara Hanan had their first foray to Europe on a 14-day trip, traveling from Basel, Switzerland to Amsterdam on a Viking River Cruise. "We had three days before our river trip in Basel and three days in Amsterdam before we returned home. The ship was very comfortable with great food. The scenery was exceptional. There were 175 passengers on board and we noted that about a third of them never left the ship. We saw many of the same people each day on the various trips exploring castles, beautiful buildings, and historic sites. The guide service was generally great, however, about a third seemed ill-prepared. In the evening many people, who weren't participating in the daily excursions, were more active with before and after dinner activities. The daily trips were actually more pleasant because there were fewer people.

"I did almost no research on birding sites since the itinerary was set up by Viking. I was assured by our Viking representative that the tour specialist on board would be able to make recommendations for self-guided park areas where I could go birding. When I asked Daniel about this he had a blank expression on his face and had no idea why I would want to look at birds! He was absolutely no help with any recommendation on park areas that might be near the ship.

"I did self-guided short walks while I was on various organized tours. We did find a few parks which allowed brief walks in the woods and pond areas. The birding was quite good when the ship was moving on the Rhine. The Basel zoo was good as well as a city park in Amsterdam. I managed to see 45 species in total with 26 species being life birds. Since I did almost no review of bird guides before the trip I wasn't sure what to expect. I did take a Birds of Europe guide but being the techno-birder I am, I loaded up on my iPad and iPhone with Sunbird guides for Switzerland and Germany. These were great guides! Wonderful pictures, range maps, details about the species all in a neat, clean set up, better than I've seen with bird guides for US birds.

"Since I was carrying my binoculars on all our various walks I became the de-facto bird guide for people on this tour. Some birds I found interesting were the Great Tit and White Stork in the Basel zoo; Black Redstart, Wood Pigeon, and Common Buzzard in the Black Forest; Eurasian Moorhen & Coot. At first I thought these were just the same as in US but have discovered they are different species. Some unusual birds that I wasn't expecting where Egyptian Goose, Ring-necked Parakeet, and Eurasian Oystercatcher on the Rhine and in Cologne. A Peregrine Falcon perched on a spire of one of the cathedrals in Cologne was way more interesting than the perfume bottles our guide started to show us. I ended up showing a number of people their life Peregrine but they missed the perfume smells.

"In the Amsterdam area a Short-toed Treecreeper, Long-tailed Tit, and the Great Spotted Woodpecker were very nice to see. The Viking cruise is a nice way to see a lot of Europe on one trip. We met a number of people who are now interested enough to go birding and one couple expressed interest in meeting me at Magee Marsh this coming spring." ---Peter Hanan



Photo of Great Tit by Peter Hanan.

CECIL COUNTY

Saturday November 12th brought Cecil Bird Club President *Maryanne Dolan* and club member *Ken Drier* to the Conowingo Dam for Exelon's 4th Annual Eagle Day. It was a cool but bright sunny day as they set up the club's informational and community events table. Later in the day they were joined by MOS's own Yellowthroat Editor and club member, *Richard Donham*. The Baltimore Sun newspaper reported that over 1100 individuals attended the event. The eagles put on quite a show for the crowd, many of whom were photographers. Besides the Cecil Bird Club, Rocky Gap State Park rangers brought both a Bald Eagle and a Golden Eagle to exhibit. Also setting up a table was the Tri-State Bird Rescue Center from Newark, Delaware. This was the second time the Cecil Bird Club attended this event. The club also conducts a field trip to the dam the Saturday after Thanksgiving to perform an eagle count. Last year club members tallied 151 Bald Eagles that day.

Cecil club members *Laura* and *Caraey Balascio* and *Kenneth* and *Kim Drier* ran concurrent trips to Zion National Park and the Grand Canyon. *Laura* and *Caraey* also visited Bryce National Park as well. Both parties birded around Las Vegas too. *Laura* states

that the Henderson Preserve in Vegas was the highlight with a Roadrunner and several Cinnamon Teal. She also bagged Pygmy Nuthatch and with the recent split of the Western Scrub Jay, a Woodhouse Scrub Jay. *Ken* had no such luck and came home with no new life birds. Did have good looks at a Golden Eagle eating some road kill while leaving Zion Park though. Both parties had their eyes glued to the sky searching for California Condors--in vain.

By the time you are reading this *Ken* and *Kim Drier* will be in Cuba on a walking tour of the national parks for nine days with Cuba Unbound. *Ken* is currently spending his evenings with his head in his Caribbean field guides.

On a sad note for the Cecil Bird Club, long time club member, Past President and current Webmaster, Turkey Point Hawk Watch coordinator and club treasurer *Pat Valdata* is moving south. She and her husband Bob have always wanted a house on the water. They have found their dream castle in Crisfield, Maryland and will soon be moving. *Pat* states that the first bird on her new yard list is a Belted Kingfisher. Very nice. Our loss in northern Maryland will be the Tri-County chapter's Christmas bonus this year. We will miss our good friend terribly. ---*Ken Drier*

HARFORD COUNTY

Five members of the Harford Bird Club went on a wildlife tour of Madagascar in mid-September. The group included *Dennis* and *Jean Kirkwood*, *George* and *Donna Yorkston*, and *Susan Hood*. We covered the island habitats thoroughly with the exception of the northeastern rainforest. The wildlife is very unique with over half the bird species being endemic or near-endemic and over 100 species of lemurs, the only native primates. We were able to locate about 100 of the endemic bird species plus over 25 species of lemur, for a very successful and enjoyable trip. Dancing sifakas and screaming indris are memories that will last a long time and we even got to hold a fossilized Elephant Bird egg! ---*Dennis Kirkwood*



Jean Kirkwood with a lemur



Long-tailed Ground Roller
(Photo by Jean Kirkwood)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Bruce Beehler provides this eagle-viewing advice: "For those who want to commune with migrating Golden Eagles, I recommend Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch and Allegheny Front Hawk Watch, both in Pennsylvania. Both are about 2.5 hours drive from Montgomery County. On 4 November I visited Waggoner's Gap for the day, where the good NW wind produced 28 Golden Eagles. On 7 November I was at Allegheny Front, where the SE wind produced 11 Golden Eagles. For seeing the eagles, one needs to visit on a day with the proper wind direction and speed. The season for this species extends from mid-October to mid-November. All the details and records of past counts for these and other hawk-watches are available on <http://www.hmana.org/hawk-watch-sites/>."

Tim Friedlander reports that he and Lynn made two trips to North Carolina, in late June and late August, in hopes of getting more acquainted with birds they generally don't see here in Maryland. "We were especially interested in seeing nuthatches and woodpeckers. Our focus was on three parks: Carolina Beach SP (just south of Wilmington, coastal but on the Cape Fear River, not on the beach itself), Lake Waccamaw SP (about an hour west of Wilmington, about half way to the Lumber River in the southern part of the state), and Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve (near Southern Pines, NC, just west of Ft. Bragg and Fayetteville). At Carolina Beach SP we observed Summer Tanagers, Downy and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Prairie Warblers, Painted Buntings, and Brown-headed Nuthatches. At Lake Waccamaw SP we saw a Mississippi Kite, Pileated and Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Brown-headed Nuthatches. At Weymouth Woods we were treated to numerous sightings of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, as well as Red-breasted and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Pine Warblers, Brown-headed and White-breasted Nuthatches, and Summer Tanagers." For guidance he recommends "Birding in North Carolina State Parks" produced by Audubon North Carolina (Karen Bearden, Sr. Ed., 2002). *Chris Wright*

TRI-COUNTY

Carol Broderick was honored with a valued service award at Tri-County's September meeting. Carol has been a member of the club since 1981 and has served the club in many ways over the years. We especially wanted to honor her for graciously hosting the fall picnic in her lovely home for 25 years. It's always been a highlight of the year, a time to reconnect with friends after the summer break. In recent years, Carol has also served as the Chapter Chatter correspondent for the club. Carol received an MOS Valued Service (Chapter) Award Pin, a gift certificate to Rommel's ACE hardware and the heartfelt thanks of our members for her outstanding service to the club. *Ellen Lawler*

Book Reviews

***Britain's Birds: An Identification Guide to the Birds of Britain and Ireland** By Rob Hume, Robert Still, Andy Swash, Hugh Harrop and David Tipling. (WILDGuides), 2016, 560 p., Princeton University Press.

***Birds of the Horn of Africa: Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Socotra.** By Nigel Redman, Terry Stevenson and John Fanshawe. (Revised and Expanded Edition, Princeton Field Guides), 2016, 512p., Princeton University Press.

***Arctic Guide: Wildlife of the Far North.** By Sharon Chester. (Princeton Field Guides), 2016, 544 p., Princeton University Press.

Three books have crossed my desk and the perigrinacious among us may now take reliable and up-to-date guides to the UK and Ireland, the Horn of Africa and the Arctic. The *Britain's Birds: An Identification to the Birds of Britain and Ireland* must now be the lead in photographic guides to British and Irish avifauna. With an impressive 3,200 color photos showing key identification features and major plumages likely to be encountered, the bird watcher will find his/her enjoyment enhanced in confirming "the right bird". The images are genuinely representative of the species and are, in most instances, equal to a high quality painted field guide plate. There are details on ranges (summer, winter and resident) and migration routes along with distribution and population and conservation status. The lead author Rob Hume was Chairman of the British Rarities Committee and David Tipling is one of the world's most widely published wildlife photographers.

The first edition of *Birds of the Horn of Africa: Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Socotra* was published in 2009 and widely regarded as the best field guide at the time. This revised and expanded 2016 edition includes up-to-date information on distribution, identification and taxonomy, and arms birders with expert knowledge of the area. With writing of a very high standard, high quality plates and attention to local subspecies, the "best field guide" claim must

be sustained with the new edition. Those of us having visited the Horn of Africa will know that it has the highest endemism of any African region with around 70 species being found nowhere else in the world. Many of these are confined to the isolated highlands of Ethiopia and Eritrea, while the island of Socotra has its own suite of endemic species. However, be warned that visits to exotic Socotra are all but impossible given the war raging in Yemen.

With climate change making the Arctic more accessible (if also likely to lose its fauna), people may wish to make a visit to the region a priority. They can do no better than take *The Arctic Guide: Wildlife of the Far North*, a portable compendium of over 800 species of plants, butterflies, fishes, birds and mammals found in polar deserts, tundra, taiga, sea ice and oceans of the Holarctic region. As well as aiding identification, information on habitat and range, Sharon Chester (author and illustrator) portrays how these organisms survive under extreme conditions. The distribution maps are a trifle small but should be no impediment to those visiting the Arctic for its exceptional fauna and flora.

So go forth with these superb guides taking you to very different environments!

Colin Rees, Anne Arundel Bird Club



New Email Capability

Emails? More of them? You think I need *more* junk mail? Well, no and no. It's true the MOS is finalizing its ability to email all members, but getting an MOS-wide message will be a rare event. And it certainly won't consist of junk, and by that I mean anyone's definition of 'junk'.

What will happen is that very occasionally because of time pressures, we will send an email message to all MOS members. It might

be a conservation issue so important it can't wait for the Yellowthroat. It might be some other time sensitive issue. It will be rare and it will be important.

To do this effectively, we need your help. If you haven't provided your chapter with an email address, or if you've changed it recently, please let us know. You can shoot a quick note to Membership Chair Marty Crouse at crouse.martha8@gmail.com, or me at Maryanne.dolan@gmail.com. We'll update the records and you'll be among the 'first to know' when something important is breaking.

Maryanne Dolan
Secretary, MOS



MOS Scholarship Announcement

The Maryland Ornithological Society is happy to announce that it is awarding three scholarships to the National Audubon Society's Hog Island camps in Maine for the summer of 2017.

Representing Harford County is Kirsten McGovern Barbera, a naturalist at the Anita C. Leight Estuary in Abingdon, Maryland. Kirsten will be attending the Field Ornithology course so that she can deepen her "understanding of all things avian" in order to pass on greater knowledge to the children that she teaches.

The Tri-County Bird Club has recommended Mike Hillman, a member of that club. Mike works at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station and also with youths at several Maryland parks (Assateague Island National Seashore, Janes Island State Park, Pocomoke River State Park, and the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury. Mike will be attending The Joy of Birding Workshop and hopes to incorporate this information into programs that he develops.

Philip Gene Groshon, our third awardee, is a naturalist at the Calvert County Natural Resources Division in Prince Frederick, MD. He will also be attending the Field Ornithology Course. Gene plans and leads public nature programs and field trips and is excited about his Hog Island workshop.

Congratulations to these 2017 Hog Island Campers and also to the chapters and colleagues who recommended them!

Anna Urciolo, Chairperson
Scholarship Committee



Alpine lakes, Yaks, Yurts, and Birdlife

Spring was a perfect time to visit this remarkable country and travel with many local inhabitants. Landlocked, Kyrgyzstan is bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west, Tajikistan to the south west and China to the east and represents one of the most interesting mountainous areas of our planet. During winter the region is covered with ice and snow and temperatures can fall to -30 or -40 degrees Celsius in the capital Bishkek. Summer temperatures can rise above 30 but conditions remain pleasant. About the size of Nebraska, the republic has been at the crossroads of several great civilizations and with its Turkic origins, Kyrgyz culture it embraces elements of Persian, Mongolian and Russian influence.

My work took me to its remarkable alpine lakes: Issyk-Kul "warm lake" and Chatyr-Kul "cestial lake". The former is perched at an elevation of 3530 meters, making it Kyrgyzstan's highest alpine lake and the second largest mountain lake in the world after Titicaca. Though surrounded by snow-capped peaks, it never freezes being fed

by numerous hot springs and subject to slightly saline conditions. Many historians believe that the lake was the origin for the Black Death that plagued Europe and Asia during the early and mid-14th century.

Issyk-Kul is a RAMSAR site of globally significant biodiversity and forms part of the Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve. It contains endemic fish biodiversity and some of the species, including four endemics, are seriously endangered. Anywhere from 50,000 to 80,000 birds belonging to 30 to 35 species winter along the lake's western and eastern shores. It is also important for many other bird species as stopover and feeding grounds during seasonal migration and for breeding birds such as Common Redshank, Kentish Plover, Common Snipe, Little Bittern, Ferruginous Duck and the Demoiselle Crane that breeds in the foothills near the lake. Small numbers of Ibisbill and Solitary Snipe also winter nearby and Pallas's Gulls and White-tailed Eagles can be expected. Though I saw the usual suspects on the lake and its shore, in the reed beds I did spot Paddyfield Warblers singing with Cetti's Warblers and in the distance heard a Nightingale.

Lake Chatyr-Kul rests near the border with China in the Tien Shan Mountains. It freezes over from October to April and summertime temperatures only reach 24 degrees Celsius. Its waters resemble a shade of greenish-yellow and contain organisms (especially copepods) investigated by international limnologists. The area around the lake is home to Marco Polo Sheep and many rare bird species, including the Bar-headed Goose. As luck would have it, I did see a straggler goose! In the distance, mountain goats and marmots cavorted in the warming sun and on the plains below yak grazed on the emerging grass while farmers set up yurts for the approaching summer.

The mountains of Kyrgyzstan show a diversity typical of Himalayan mountainous and western paleartic species and I was introduced to Eversmann's Redstart, Pine

Bunting, Ibisbill and White-winged Crossbill. I missed the Himalayan Rubythroat, Black-throated and Himalayan Accentors, Guldenstadt's and Upland Buzzard but may have caught sight of some Rose-Finches. I had bad luck with the Rock Bunting, Lammergeier and Black Vulture. Close to the roadside in the plains I observed a group of Himalayan Griffon Vultures.

Considering the size and location of Kyrgyzstan, the number of bird species to be encountered is impressive with at least 376 species recorded, including all residents, migrants, and vagrants. The avifauna is influenced by the Himalayas as well as by the birds breeding on the Siberian taiga and Kazakh steppes that migrate through the mountain slopes.

Tourism is well advanced and people will find decent accommodation and travel arrangements and very friendly hosts.
Colin Rees,
Anne Arundel Bird Club



Birds of Note – by Les Roslund

Great excitement among birders was generated on Nov 16 by discovery of a GRAY KINGBIRD in Kent County. The bird was on the power lines by the side of Eastern Neck Road slightly north of Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. The astute finder was Mike Hudson of Kent County who noticed what looked like a Kingbird but with a very large black bill. Closer inspection revealed a gray head and back, black eye bar, white underparts, white under throat extending under the eye bar and with a notched tail. Eventually the bird was confirmed to be a GRAY KINGBIRD. Over the next two days,

numerous birders relocated and enjoyed this bird as a life, state or county Bird.

GRAY KINGBIRD sightings in Maryland have previously been accepted seven times since 1975, with the most recent prior sighting being in Baltimore in 2010. They are regularly found in south Florida and in the Florida Keys where they inhabit mangroves and other dense vegetation near to the coast.

Early in the morning of Nov 14 Hans Holbrook noticed and photographed a WHITE-WINGED DOVE on the property of Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), Prince George's County. When first seen, the bird was perched on some power wires in the company of a few MOURNING DOVES. Later the group dropped down to forage in a corn stubble field. Hans was participating in a BARC bird survey that day, along with several other birders. He spread the word of the sighting to others on the survey team, so a few other birders managed to see the bird. (Normally, birding access to this property is restricted). Nice views of the bird were attained while it was perched or in flight or while it was foraging on the ground. Compared to the MOURNING DOVES, the WHITE-WINGED DOVE was slightly larger and the white was quite visible on the folded wings. There have been 13 accepted sightings of WHITE-WINGED DOVES in Maryland. The first was in 1970 and the most recent was in 2012. This was the first such sighting in Prince George's County.

On Nov 9th Dan Haas of Amberley discovered a SAY'S PHOEBE in Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel County. Dan, in his normal calm and gentle way, quickly spread word of the sighting by practically screaming through his cell phone the message: "SAY'S PHOEBE – Sandy Point – Now!" For Dan this was a great way to start the Rarity Roundup weekend. For scores of other birders this rare bird lingered long enough in an easily accessible place to allow lots of fulfilling views and photos. For the bird, besides looking for food it may have just been trying to get off the Maryland "rare bird" list. This visit (if the report is accepted) will mark the fourth consecutive year that a

SAY'S PHOEBE has shown up in the state. Much of its visiting time during daylight hours was spent on the main beach of Sandy Point, often searching for insects in the silt-laden fence that graces the area. The last sighting of the bird may have been that of Mike Lathroum who posted at 4 pm on the 10th and included some splendid photos of this beautiful bird.

Much of late summer and autumn this year BROWN PELICANS were appearing in large numbers far north of their usual range of recent years. A few years ago, it was unusual for them to show up near or north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. This year scores of them have been seen near the bridge and small numbers have shown up much farther north than that. Many birders have taken up checking periodically around the bridge just to see how many they might find. One of the highest numbers was reported by Frank Marenghi who took photographs from a boat on Nov 14th while participating in an official state oyster survey. From counting birds in photos taken on or near the concrete bridge supports at the Queen Anne's County end of the bridge, Frank recorded 130 of the birds in that area. He, along with others, found BROWN PELICANS to be nearly everywhere on the Bay during that day.

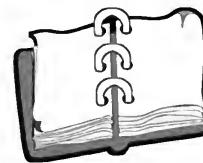
Though November offered a splendid set of unusual or rare bird sightings this year, there were also some quite interesting bird visits during October. One that was brief but still quite enjoyable was a fly-over visit of a MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD above Isle of Wight Bay in Ocean City, Worcester County. This bird was reported by Bobby Wilcox and Kaitlin Murphy who were paddle-boarding on the bay in the afternoon of Oct 01. Their report described what they felt was an unmistakable view of an adult female. This was a "huge black bird with very long 'W' shaped wings, long narrow tail (two longest outer tail feathers grown to slightly different lengths), white breast and black head and throat. "The bird had a long whitish bill with a hooked tip. The bird was soaring about 50-ft above the water surface so we got great looks. Bobby added "Unfortunately, I did not

have a camera since I was on a paddle board." There were no additional FRIGATEBIRD sightings reported that day.

On Oct 29 reports of single bird fly-overs of CROSSBILLS came from two sites. Keith Eric Costley heard a RED CROSSBILL at Southwest Area Park, Baltimore County, and Jeffrey Effinger of Talbot County heard a WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL as it flew above Fairbank Road south of Tilghman in Talbot County.

On October 31, Mark Johnson found three BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES in Swan Harbor Farm Park, Harford County suggesting at least a small irruption of this species also. Mark attained excellent photos of these birds. The same day, Oct 31, Tim Carney of Nottingham found several BLACK-CAPS at Mt. Vista Park in eastern Baltimore County.

And finally, there have been two very recent reports of sightings of YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS in the state. On Nov 22, a female was seen and photographed at Blackwater NWR by Dan Haas. This bird was successfully singled out from within a flock of about 750 RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS. On Nov 23, a first winter male YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was found by Keith Eric Costley at Black Marsh, Baltimore County. Keith attained excellent photographs of this bird.



MOS Calendar

Jan – Feb 2017

By Marilyn VEEK

Sunday, January 1, 2017

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Annapolis-Gibson Island.** Please contact the leaders well in advance of January 1, preferably before Christmas, so we can assign you to an area and coverage can be maximized. Tally will be at Double T Diner in Parole. Compilers are Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson, 410-647-7439 or hal.lynn@comcast.net, and Sue Ricciardi, 410-647-9513 or susiericc@comcast.net.

■ **Baltimore.** Loch Raven Reservoir. Start the new year birding! Varied habitats including woods, fields and the reservoir. Possibly continuing to other sites for a big day in Baltimore City and County. Telescopes useful for viewing distant waterfowl over the water. 8:30 AM. Meet at Loch Raven Picnic Trail parking lot. Leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Chesterville.** Covers most of eastern Kent Co and some of northern Queen Anne's. Full day of counting, followed by count down dinner. Contact compiler Maren Gimpel at maren.gimpel@gmail.com for area assignments or more information.

■ **Harford.** Perryman Area. Celebrate the New Year/recover from New Year's Eve with a walk through the always productive Perryman Area. 8:30 AM. Meet at the Aberdeen Wal-Mart parking lot off Rt. 40. Leader Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net.

■ **Howard.** Start Your Year List walk. Easy walking on paved paths and woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the

year where every bird is new! 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Howard Conservancy, Mount Pleasant Farm. Facilities available. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Lititz, PA.** Compiler Bruce Carl, 717-368-4824 or carls94@ptd.net.

■ **Montgomery.** Earliest Bird Walk - Georgetown Reservoir and DC Hotspots. Start the New Year right. Meet at 8 AM at Georgetown Reservoir by the gate leading to the dike between the pools. Half day. Reservations required. Strict limit of 20 participants who should be prepared to carpool. Leader Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Patuxent River.** Compiler Andy Brown, brownaj@co.cal.md.us or 410-535-5327.

Monday, January 2

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Bowie.** Compiler David Mozurkewich, mozurk@verizon.net or 202-509-2212.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Calmes Neck, VA.** Compiler Margaret Wester, margaretwester@hotmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Ft. Belvoir, VA and MD shoreline.** Compiler Lynne Wheeler, comstockel@aol.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Inwood, WV.** Compiler Bob Dean, dean8189@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Sugarloaf Mountain.** Compiler Janet Millenson, 301-983-9337 or janet@twocrows.com.

Wednesday, January 4

■ **Baltimore.** First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. 8 AM. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Russ Kovach will recap the 2016 Christmas Count. 7-8:30 PM. Elkton Library, 301 Newark Ave. For more information, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com

Thursday, January 5

MEETING. **Frederick.** Members Night. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms. Contact Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369.

MEETING. **Harford.** Business meeting, with presentation "BIRDING the Land of Fire and Ice." Debbie and Don Stewart take us on a photographic journey to Iceland sharing its, habitat, scenery, and spectacular pictures of coastal seabirds and waterfowl. Light refreshments at 6 PM, business meeting at 7 PM followed by the presentation at 8 PM. Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd. Contact Bob Werrlein, we2.rein@gmail.com.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regularly scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations required. For more info contact David Mozurkewich, mozuk@verizon.net.

Saturday, January 7

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. **Carroll.** Talk birds, eat, drink, and have fun with fellow birders. Sue and Splinter Yingling, hostess/host. 70 Ridge Rd, Westminster. 7:30 PM. Please coordinate with the Yinglings to bring a dish at syingling@mac.com or 410-857-0902.

■ Cecil. Fair Hill NRMA. Fair Hill is one of Cecil County's loveliest birding spots. A variety of habitats, including woods, fields and wetlands, means that we will see a number of different winter residents. Portions of the trail may be muddy or icy, so boots are recommended. Dress for extreme cold and wind. 8 AM (half day.) Meet at the Foxcatcher Farm Covered Bridge on Tawes Drive. Honor system daily fee is \$3 Maryland residents; \$4 out-of-state visitors. Birders age 62 and older are eligible for a Golden Age Pass. Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

MID-WINTER COUNT. Frederick. Meet at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary at 6:30 AM, and be prepared to visit all parts of the sanctuary's 129 acres. You may want your waterproof boots. Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Harford. 3rd annual count at Swan Harbor Farm in Havre de Grace. Each participant, accompanied by an adult, will be part of a small birding team headed by an experienced birder. Each team will record the number and species of birds spotted along a pre-determined route during a fixed time period. Their combined results will be tallied, and presented for entry on eBird at the Swan Harbor Center. Age groups are 4-7 and 8-16 years. Arrival and check-in time is set for 8 AM. For additional information, contact Ruth Bergstrom, harfordyouthbirding@yahoo.com.

■ Kent. The Friends of Eastern Neck NWR are sponsoring a 2-hour walk which will visit areas of the refuge normally off-limits to visitors. Limited to 20. Participants will need to pre-register on-line with Eventbrite at bit.do/winterwaterfowlwalks. 8 AM. Send questions via e-mail to easternneckwalks@gmail.com.

■ Patuxent/PG. Regularly scheduled walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at the gate at end of Lemon Br Rd, off Laurel-Bowie Rd just n. of the MARC line. No reservations

needed. 7:30 AM. For more info, contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, January 8

■ Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. Monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8-11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact leader David Gillum at 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

MEETING AND COVERED DISH DINNER. Baltimore. *Mark Johnson*, Harford County Bird Club, Past President of MOS, will discuss his recent birding trip to Trinidad and Tobago. 4:30 PM. Vollmer Center at Cylburn Arboretum. Please contact dinner coordinator Kevin Graff in advance at keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410 557-2456, to let him know you are coming, and what food you plan to bring.

■ Kent. Eastern Neck NWR. Kick off your birding year with a search for waterfowl, eagles, and winter land birds. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Talbot. Location TBD. 7 AM. Meet at the Easton Acme parking lot.

■ Tri-county. Coastal Birding trip from Ocean City to Cape Henlopen, DE for winter coastal birding. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or the OC inlet parking lot at 8:30 AM. For information, contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982- 8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net or Rick Palmer at 410-360- 7374 or rjpalmer@aol.com.

Tuesday, January 10

MEETING. **Patuxent/PG.** "The Azores and Madeira Islands: Endemics and Island Beauty" by *Phil Davis*. He and his wife Barbara have visited these off-the-beaten track islands twice in search of their endemic species and sub-species. This multi-media presentation will focus on these endemics as well as the islands' beauty and culture. Phil is also well-known as the Secretary of the MOS Rarities Committee. 7:30 PM. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, at E. end of College Ave, 2 blocks in from Cpl Scott Dr off Paint Br Pkwy at the light just E. of the Metro line.

Thursday, January 12

MEETING. **Howard.** "Owls in Myth and Culture: In-depth Results from a Global Study," by *David H. Johnson*, Director Global Owl Project. GLOW is a consortium of 450 researchers, managers and passionate owl people working on the science and conservation of owls in 65 countries. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Friday, January 13

■ Montgomery. Blue Mash. A mid-week morning walk geared to new birders. We'll look for the expected winter birds: cardinals, towhees and sparrows as well as raptors (Northern Harrier a possibility) and ducks. Expect to walk (waterproof boots suggested!) about a mile on level trails. The trip will be cancelled or postponed in case of sleet, ice or rain. 9 AM. Reservations not necessary. For directions or more information call or e-mail

leader Stephanie Lovell, ctlovell1@yahoo.com or 240-242-3235.

Saturday, January 14

■ Anne Arundel. Fort Smallwood Park. Liz and Dominic Nucifora will lead the walk through this waterfront park. As you stroll along the Patapsco River, you can expect to see a variety of wintering water birds and maybe a Bald Eagle of two. The park also has a pond, fields and wooded areas that are home to a variety of birds. There is a \$6 entry fee for this park. 7:30 AM (half day). Contact Dominic Nucifora at 443-534-4891 or d.nucifora@yahoo.com.

■ Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of Kinder Farm Park and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day). Take the first left before the gatehouse and meet at the last parking lot up the hill on the left. Contact leaders Alan and Susan Young at 410-991-8300 or almyoung@aol.com.

■ Baltimore. Special Youth Birding Trip to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. We can expect a wide variety of waterfowl, various wintering residents on the milder Eastern Shore, and possible Golden Eagles and Brown-headed Nuthatches, not to mention the White Pelicans. Dress for the weather - it can be quite cold and windy, so warm coats, gloves and hats are recommended for frequent out-of-the-car walking (although past years have also had balmy, shirt-sleeve weather days). Following the refuge visit, as interest indicates, we may have lunch nearby and stop on the way back at the Choptank River and on Kent Island for more ducks, geese and swans. 9 AM. Meet at the refuge headquarters on 2145 Key Wallace Dr in Cambridge. Pre-registration is mandatory. The trip itself is free, but the refuge charges a \$3 fee for each car (plus the Bay Bridge itself is \$4 each car east-bound). It's about a 2½ hour drive, so if carpooling is desired,

mention that when you register. Leader John Robinson, 443-810-9059 (cell), 410-483-6620 (home), jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

Howard. Alpha Ridge Landfill. Moderate walking over hills and fields of the landfill. We will search for Short-eared Owls with no guarantee of finding one. Other possibilities are Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Horned Lark, American Pipit, and Eastern Meadowlark. If we finish early, we may go to Mount Pleasant and look for wintering sparrows. Facilities at Alpha Ridge Park. Half day. Reservations required. Carpooling required. Limited to a maximum of five cars. Contact Joe Hanfman for reservations, auk1844@gmail.com or 410-772-8424.

Sunday, January 15

Anne Arundel. Schoolhouse and Home Depot Ponds. One of our club's youngest birders, Chris Berry, will lead this trip to several aquatic locations in Upper Marlboro. The dual ponds behind the Home Depot store have historically provided a wide variety of wintering ducks and shorebirds. No walking is required at this location. Schoolhouse Pond is encircled with a paved path that partially meanders through a wooded area. Other areas could be visited, if time and weather permit. 8-11 AM. Meet at Parole P&R. Contact Kevin Smith at 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

Baltimore. Loch Raven Point and Dam. Half-day trip for winter waterfowl and other birds. 8:45 AM. Meet at Loch Raven Point (public area on Loch Raven Drive, just west of Bridge #1). Our second stop will be Loch Raven Dam. Telescopes useful for distant waterfowl. Leaders Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net, and Ben Poscover, 410-882-1309.

Cecil. Eastern Neck NWR. This location offers a mix of open fields, woodlands, and access to the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. Most abundant birdlife at this time of

year will be ducks, geese and swans, perhaps with a few loons and grebes and coots. Also expect a good variety of sparrows. Eagles should be easily visible. Excellent birding in a quiet setting with no crowds or distractions. Bring lunch and snacks; there are few opportunities to purchase food in the vicinity. Dress for extreme cold and possible wind. Boots are strongly recommended. Bring spotting scope if you have one. Easy walking on level ground, about two miles round trip. 7:30 AM (full day). Meet near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt. 40 and Rt. 213. Leader Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

MID-WINTER COUNT. Frederick. Meet at the Fred Archibald Sanctuary at 6:30 AM, and be ready to cover 140 acres. Don't forget waterproof boots. Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

Montgomery. Black Hill Regional Park. All birders, but especially new birders, are welcome on this half-day trip, which will focus on the identification of ducks at this premiere county spot for winter waterfowl. Meet at 8 AM at the Visitors Center, and bring a spotting scope if you have one. For reservations (required) and more information, contact leader Gerry Hawkins at maineusa@comcast.net or 571-277-8406 (cell).

Wednesday, January 18

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Colonial Nesting Bird Islands in the Coastal Bays" with *Dave Wilson*. Former Maryland Coastal Bays Program Executive Director Dave Wilson will discuss the history and management of colonial nesting bird islands in the bays behind Ocean City and Assateague, the process undergone to restore them, the fight to protect them from human disturbance, and the current state of both the islands and the seabirds that breed there. 7-9 PM. Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact Barbara Johnson at 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Montgomery.** *Mike Bowen* on Birding Wales. Mike will give a program about his native Wales and the birding there. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting starts at 8 PM. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

Thursday, January 19

MEETING. **Caroline.** The Best of *Danny Poet* nature photos. 7:30 PM, Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regularly scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations required. For more info contact David Mozurkewich, mozuk@verizon.net.

Saturday, January 21

■ **Baltimore.** Third Saturday Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM-noon. Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Ben Poscover, 410-882-1309.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT. **Baltimore.** Birders of all skill levels wanted, to participate in post-migration bird count in your choice of location in Baltimore City or County. Please contact compiler Pete Webb, 443 904-6314 or pete6314webb@gmail.com, to get your area assigned before someone else grabs it, or to help fill in important sites that aren't yet covered.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT. **Carroll.** Parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas to count winter bird species throughout the County. Contact Don Jewell to verify your bird counting area (jewelldg@gmail.com or 410-259-4716.) Tally Rally will be hosted by Amy Hoffman at her home. If you will be attending the Rally, please RSVP to Amy (410-549-3598) no later

than Wednesday, January 18 and plan on bringing a food item or cash donation (\$5).

■ **Cecil.** Ocean City Area and Beyond. A classic trip to THE prime Maryland winter birding hotspot. The Ocean City inlet hosts an unequalled variety of wintering ducks, possibly including all three scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin, mergansers, and maybe even an eider or two. Add to that Red-throated and Common Loons, a grebe or two, Great Cormorant, Northern Gannet, Purple Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, and possibilities of rare gulls or a Razorbill or Murre. Over at the Fourth St mudflats, there could be some lingering shorebirds, and Brant should be about. The ponds in the vicinity should hold an assortment of Canvasback, Redhead, Wigeon, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Ruddy, Teal, Shoveler – a great chance for good views to study the plumages at the time of year when their colors are brightest. Depending on locations visited, there could also be good opportunities for wintering sparrows – maybe even a rarity like LeConte's or Snowy Owl. Dress for extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. Easy walking on level ground. 6 AM (full day). Meet near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt. 40 and Rt. 213. Bring breakfast, lunch and snack, or money to buy take-out food on the way. Leader is Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

■ **Frederick.** Audubon Society of Central MD bird walk at the Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Rd, Mt. Airy. 9-11 AM. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

■ **Harford.** Conowingo Eagle Watch. Bring your camera for a chance at many excellent shots of large numbers of eagles along with other shorebirds and waterfowl. Meet at 8:30 AM at Fisherman's Park below the dam. Leader is Dave Webb, 410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net.

■ Kent. Ocean City. Our annual search for winter specialties including gannet, sea ducks, alcids, gulls, Purple Sandpipers, and wintering songbirds. Dress warmly, bring lunch and warm beverages. 8 AM (full day). Meet at the Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Patuxent/PG. Regularly scheduled walk at Governor Bridge Park in conjunction with Prince Georges Audubon Society. 7:30 AM. Meet inside the gate at the Park on Gov Br Rd, 1 mile from Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more info, contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Tri-county. Dorchester County, for waterfowl, raptors, other winter residents. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Royal Farms on Rt 50 west of Salisbury. Bring lunch and snacks. For more information, contact trip leader Mike Walsh at 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net.

Monday, January 23

MEETING. **Tri-county.** "India", *Mike Walsh* and *Chris Dominick*. Meeting begins at 7 PM at the MAC Education Center, 909 Progress Circle off Snow Hill Rd, Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net for more information.

Tuesday, January 24

POTLUCK DINNER/MEETING. **Washington.** Program: film "The Big Year." Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. Dinner starting at 6 PM; meeting at 7. Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt. Aetna Rd, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 for details.

Saturday, January 28

■ Anne Arundel. Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC). The CBEC

offers excellent winter birding opportunities. Wintering waterfowl are numerous; it is highly likely to see Northern Harriers, and possibly Brown-headed Nuthatches or nesting Great Horned Owls. Please wear VERY warm clothes (including gloves, hats, and preferably waterproof boots) and bring lunch and warm drinks. The winter weather has the potential to be quite brutal. Plan to walk around numerous trails, visit bird blinds, and be near the water. This is an ideal location for a spotting scope. If time allows we may hit a couple of other "hot spots" on Kent Island after CBEC. Meet at the Bay 50 Shopping Center at 8:15 AM and depart around 8:30 (half day.) Carpooling is strongly encouraged to reduce toll charges. Contact Lauren Biddinger at 443-250-7747 or lbiddinger@student.umuc.edu.

■ Baltimore. Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this nature oasis in the middle of Baltimore. 8-9:30 AM. For questions or to arrange to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT. **Harford.** Contact the compiler, Rick Cheicante, 410-803-2712 or rickcheicante@cs.com for details.

MOS DAY RETREAT. A gathering of interested and committed members to examine and improve MOS functions, outreach, membership, conservation, conferences. Attendance limited. 8:30-4. Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore. RSVP to Barbara Johnson, barbara.johnson@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 29

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT. **Frederick.** This is the last, but not the least, of our winter counts! The reward afterwards is the enjoyable tally-rally at David and Carol's house. Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT. **Kent.** Join the field crew or count in your neighborhood. Contact one of the leaders for more information: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ **Montgomery.** Winter Waterfowl Search. If conditions on the towpath look reasonable, we'll check the river for wintering ducks in a portion of the Urban Zone (a no firearms discharge area) between the mouth of Watt's Branch and Great Falls. Expect some winter passerines along the C&O Canal as well. Meet at 8 AM (half day) in the Swain's Lock parking lot at end of Swain's Lock Rd. Bring a scope if you have one. Trip will be canceled or changed to another venue if icy conditions along canal towpath make walking treacherous. Reservations required. For reservations and more info, contact leader Andy Martin, martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066.

Wednesday, February 1

■ **Baltimore.** First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Brazil and the Pantanal" by Greg Kearns. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Speaker TBA. 7-8:30 PM. Cecil County Administration Building. For more information, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 2

MEETING. **Frederick.** David Smith on "Kestrels." 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms. Contact Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regularly scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations required. For more info contact David Mozurkewich, mozuk@verizon.net.

Saturday, February 4

■ **Anne Arundel.** Thomas Point and Annapolis Neck. Great views of the Bay, South River and Severn River. We will be in search of water birds such as Long-tailed Ducks and more. 7:45 AM (half day). Meet at the Giant Shopping Center on Bay Ridge Rd near Wells Fargo Bank. Contact Judy Brennan at 410-991-2412 or el.judith@gmail.com.

■ **Frederick.** Blackwater NWR. Search for wintering waterfowl with Kathy Calvert, 301-810-5677.

■ **Harford.** World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats/Soup Event. Dennis Kirkwood leads us on a pleasant tour through NW Harford County's agricultural area to find wintering field birds and waterfowl. Expect Horned Larks, Longspurs and Snow Buntings, Ring-necked Ducks, and maybe a Cackling Goose. The trip ends at the leader's house where you can warm up and enjoy hot soup, breads and good conversation and maybe even a brief glimpse of the resident Screech Owl. 8 AM. Meet at the Jarretsville Elementary School parking lot. Contact Dennis at newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT. **Howard.** Contact Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com or 410-772-8424.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regularly scheduled walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. 7:30 AM. Meet at the gate at end of Lemon Br Rd, off Laurel-Bowie Rd just n. of the MARC line. No

reservations needed. For more info, contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Washington. Black Hill RP. Leave from the Rt. 66 P&R at 8 AM. Contact Doris Berger at 301-739-8907 or dberger@md.net to participate.

Sunday, February 5

■ Baltimore. Loch Raven Point and Dams. Morning trip to see ducks, grebes, coots and other water birds. 8:45 AM. Meet at Loch Raven Point (public area on Loch Raven Drive, just west of Bridge #1). Our second stop will be Loch Raven Dam. Scopes useful. Trip canceled in snow, rain, or slippery conditions. Leaders Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net, and Peter Lev, 410-823-2962 or plev@comcast.net.

■ Kent. Little Creek and Ted Harvey WMA, DE. Tucked between the more well-known refuges on the Delaware Bay shore, these offer a mix of light woodland, fresh and salt marshes, open water and bay shore with an excellent mix of bird species. Dress warmly, bring lunch & warm beverages. 8 AM (full day). Meet at the Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Montgomery. Oaks Landfill, Laytonsville. Bundle up for a late afternoon search for wintering sparrows and raptors, including possible Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls, at this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain with some ponds, which we will check if not frozen over. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We have special permission to enter this "closed to the public" landfill so reservations are essential. Limit 20. Meet at 3:30 PM on landfill entrance drive at 6001 Rt 108, Laytonsville. Contact the leader for reservations and more information. Leader

Mark England, 240-375-4500 (cell) or markengland@canamcontractors.com.

 **YMOS. Cromwell Valley Park.** This student led trip for Maryland educators will explore the Park for wintering birds. 8:30-11:30 AM. More detailed information will be sent out in advance of the trip. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip. Then we will use email to coordinate actual departure times and locations, trip needs, carpooling, and additional information.

Thursday, February 9

MEETING. Howard. "Making Conservation Work for America," by *Rachel Joiner*, Major Gifts Officer, The Conservation Fund. This non-profit balances environmental sustainability and economic development to protect land, water and wildlife while generating jobs and making communities more vibrant. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Saturday, February 11

■ Anne Arundel. Swann Park, West Covington and Ferry Bar. Winter-time trip to areas just inside southern Baltimore City. We will visit at least three good locations with very good views of the Middle Branch and Patapsco Rivers and more if time and weather permits. Despite its proximity to downtown Baltimore, these are excellent sites for wintering ducks and a nice variety of gulls. There will be moderate walking distances on paved paths at West Covington and Swann Park. A scope is recommended. 8:30 AM (half day). Meet at Millersville commuter lot. Contact Kevin Smith at 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com

■ Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of Kinder

Farm Park and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day). Take the first left before the gatehouse (free entry). Meet at the last parking lot up the hill on the left. Contact leaders Alan and Susan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

■ Baltimore. Special Youth Birding Trip at Fort McHenry. We will walk around the area outside the fort, looking over the water for ducks, grebes and gulls, plus a selection of land birds in the grassy areas. Past years have featured Red-necked Grebe and Lesser Black-backed Gull, as well as a variety of deep-water ducks and other waterfowl. This is an often interesting area for waterbirds, and as an option, after the walk is over, those who desire can pay the entrance fee and tour the fort! 9 AM. Meet at the parking lot inside the gates, at 2400 East Fort Ave. Leader John Robinson, 443-810-9059 (cell), 410-483-6620 (home), or jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

■ Cecil. Bombay Hook NWR, DE. Bombay Hook's 16,000 acres include freshwater pools, swamps, upland forests, agricultural fields, and one of the largest unaltered tidal salt marshes in the Mid-Atlantic region. All this habitat attracts thousands of geese, ducks, and shorebirds, as well as songbirds like Blue Grosbeak and White-crowned Sparrows. Bring lunch, snacks, and water. Dress for extreme cold and possible wind. Bring spotting scope if you have one. Much of the trip will be by car, with short walks at several stops. 7:30 AM (full day.) Meet near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt 40 and Rt 213. Leader Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

■ Harford. Cape May/Lewes Ferry. Journey to southern NJ in search of winter residents and strays. Possible targets include Eurasian Widgeon, Orange-crowned Warbler, Harlequin Duck, both Common and King Eiders, Great Cormorant, and many others along the Delaware Bay and Cape May coastlines. In the afternoon we will take the 2:30 PM run of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry where all three

scoters can be expected in addition to Gannet, Common and Red-throated Loon, and a shot at possible other pelagic birds as well. The birding trip is free but the ferry charges \$27 for car and driver plus \$8 per additional adult (\$51 for a car full of four adults). 6 AM. Meet at the Havre de Grace P&R at 155/I 95. Contact Russ Kovach for more information, russell.kovach@mail.com or 443-386-4787.

■ Tri-county. Late day trip to Deal Island WMA for Short-eared Owl, Black-crowned Night Heron, Northern Harrier and other birds of the winter marsh. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 1 PM or parking area near the Exxon Station (across from McDonald's) in Princess Anne at 1:30 PM. Bring snacks and drinks. For more information, contact trip leader Mike Walsh at 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net.

Saturday-Sunday, February 11-12

■ Patuxent/PG. Overnight trip to Ocean City. Meet at the OC jetty before sunset. We will stay at the Holiday Inn on 66th St. Leaders Marcia Watson and Gene Scarpulla. Reservations required; contact Fred Fallon, fwfallon@ymail.com.

Sunday, February 12

■ Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. Monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8-11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact leader David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, February 14

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** Amateur Night. Come with your pictures of birds you have seen far afield or in your back yard (bring on flash drive), birding stories, poems, anything you would like to share with the Club. We will also discuss the newest birding technology. It should be a fun evening for all! 7 PM, Compton Hall, Room TBA, Frostburg State University. Contact Mary Huebner for more information, marybird22@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PG.** "Gearing Up: Apps, Cameras, etc for Birding", by *Ken Cohen*. 7:30 PM. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, at E end of College Ave, 2 blocks in from Cpl Scott Dr off Paint Br Pkwy at the light just E of the Metro line.

Wednesday, February 15

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "Lights Out Baltimore" with *Lindsay Jacks*. Baltimore is one of over 20 "Lights Out" programs in North America. Lindsay Jacks outlines the efforts to make Baltimore safe for migratory birds by convincing businesses to turn out decorative night lighting in the city during peak migration seasons. Lights Out Baltimore also advocates for bird-safe building design that makes glass and windows visible to birds. LOB volunteers walk downtown Baltimore during fall and spring migration to rescue injured birds from window collisions and collect dead birds. Lindsay's inspiring work shows how a dedicated group of volunteers can make a real difference in bird conservation. 7-9 PM. Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact Barbara Johnson at 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Montgomery.** *Janet Millenson* on "Three Centuries of Birds - Artists and Writers before Audubon." Janet's talk is about the writing and art in early bird books (mostly mid-1500s to mid-1800s.) Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting starts at 8 PM. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

Thursday, February 16

MEETING. **Caroline.** Movie - TBA. 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regularly scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations required. For more info contact David Mozurkewich, mozuk@verizon.net.

Friday-Monday, February 17-20

Great Backyard Bird Count. Count one day or all four! gbbc.birdcount.org.

Saturday, February 18

■ **Baltimore.** Third Saturday Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM-noon. Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Ben Poscover, 410-882-1309.

■ **Frederick.** Bird Walk at Fred Archibald Audubon Sanctuary, 6011 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market. 9-11 AM. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

■ **Howard.** How to Find an Owl. Learn how to find owls by habitat and signs. Jay is an expert at finding owls and will share his skills and knowledge as to how to find different species. Our target species are Long-eared, Saw-whet, and other owls. Two sessions, 9:30 AM and 1 PM; possibility of birding till dusk for owls and early woodcocks. Preregistration required and group size may be limited. Contact Jay to sign up so participants can be advised of weather related changes. Leader Jay Sheppard, jaymsheppard95@gmail.com (preferred) or 301-725-5559.

■ Patuxent/PG. Regularly scheduled walk at Governor Bridge Park in conjunction with Prince Georges Audubon Society. 7:30 AM. Meet inside the gate at the Park on Gov Br Rd, 1 mile from Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more info, contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ YMOS. Dorchester Co. We'll spend time looking at the large array of ducks, before heading south to Blackwater NWR and Shorter's Wharf to look for Short-eared Owls and Rough-legged Hawks. Bring a lunch and money for dinner and plenty of warm clothing. 8 AM. Meet at the Sailwinds Center immediately across the Choptank River Bridge in Cambridge. More detailed information will be sent out in advance of the trip. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip. Then we will use email to coordinate actual departure times and locations, trip needs, carpooling, and additional information.

Saturday-Monday, February 18-20

■ Carroll. Carroll County Winter Weekend at the Beach. A great opportunity to freeze your bins off and see a lot of really great birds. Based on where the reports are coming in from, the group will work up and down the coast for winter waterfowl and other winter residents. 10 AM. Meet at the Bombay Hook Visitor's Center. Bob Ringler will once again be leading this trip. Contact him at 410-303-2792 if you plan on attending. Bill Ellis is once again offering his townhouse in Ocean City as our base of operations. Please contact Bill at 443-520-8809 to inquire about sleeping space there on Saturday and Sunday nights.

■ Frederick. Eastern Shore Weekend. Leaders Marcia Balestri and Tom Humphrey, 240-793-2508.

Saturday, February 25

■ Kent. Blackwater NWR. Prime waterfowl and eagle country; pelicans and other surprises? Full day. Dress warmly & bring

lunch. 8 AM. Meet at the Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Harford. Eastern Neck NWR. Expect to see ducks, swans, waterfowl and maybe pelicans. 8 AM. Meet at the Havre de Grace P&R (I-95/Rt 155.) Leaders are veteran birders Mark Johnson, marksjohnson@gmail.com or 410-692-5978 and Tom Congersky, 410-658-4137 or jnjtcon@zoominternet.net.

Saturday-Sunday, February 25-26

■ Baltimore. Weekend Trip to Blackwater NWR and Ocean City. With overnight stay. For winter surprises on the Eastern Shore and along the Atlantic coastline. Leader Peter Lev, 410-823-2962 or plev@comcast.net.

Sunday, February 26

■ Anne Arundel. Greenbury Point. This location at the mouth of the Severn River offers long, flat trails with spectacular views of the Naval Academy, Chesapeake Bay and Severn River. We should see numerous varieties of wintering ducks and field birds. Warm clothing is a must and scopes are a good idea. 8 AM. Meet at Parole P&R. Contact leader Linda Vitchock at lindabvit@hotmail.com

Monday, February 27

MEETING. Tri-county. "Project SNOWstorm, What we've learned from the 2013-14 Snowy Owl invasion" by *Dave Brinker*, Central Regional Ecologist, MD DNR. 7 PM. MAC Education Center, 909 Progress Circle off Snow Hill Rd, Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net for more information.

Tuesday, February 28

MEETING. **Washington.** "Birds and Beyond" with *Bonnie Ott.* 7 PM. Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt. Aetna Rd, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 for details.

Wednesday, March 1

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Dragonflies and Damselflies" by *Jim McCann.* 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Cecil.** *Jean Woods*, Curator of Birds at the Delaware Natural History Museum, will present a program on shorebirds in the Delaware Bay. 7-8:30 PM. Cecil County Administration Building. For more information, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Thursday, March 2

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Wil Hershberger* will speak on his prairie studies. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms. Contact Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369.

Friday, March 3

BUSINESS/AWARDS DINNER. **Harford.** Special presentation "Harbingers of Spring" by *Kevin Dodge.* Kevin is a kindred spirit, and gifted teacher from Garrett College. He enjoys an otherworldly connection to, and appreciation of, all things natural, and has an uncanny knack for inspiring students and audiences of all ages. Reservations are necessary. Dinner at 6:15 PM, business/awards meeting at 7, and presentation at 8. Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd. For more information, contact Johanne Henrickson at johen24@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 4

MOS BOARD MEETING. Hosted by Patuxent/PG County. College Park Airport conference room. Field trip to Lake Artemesia

beforehand. Contact Maryanne Dolan, MOS Secretary, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

■ **Howard.** Waterfowl Search of Howard County waterways for ducks, grebes, mergansers and loons. Chance of an early migrant. 8 AM (half day). Meet at Lake Elkhorn Broken Land Pkwy parking lot to carpool. Leader Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643 or krschwa1@verizon.net.

Sunday, March 5

■ **Anne Arundel.** Patuxent River Driving Tour. Join Naturalist Lisa Bierer-Garrett looking for winter birds along the Patuxent and Mattaponi as we cross the iconic wooden bridge that joins Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary with Patuxent River Park. We will walk some sections and drive to complete the 4 mile tour exiting from the Merkle side to Croom Rd. Plan for cold weather and some good views of Bald Eagles, wintering ducks, and herons. We will check farm fields of Canada Geese to scan for Cackling Geese or other winter vagrants. 7 AM (half day). Meet at Rt 2 Lothian P&R (just north of Rt 258 Deale Rd.) Contact Lisa Bierer-Garrett at 301-751-4344 or froglipp@gmail.com.

■ **Harford.** Swan Harbor Farm Park. This Harford Co. gem with three impoundments, a commanding view of the Chesapeake Bay, wooded trails, and open fields has developed into a fine location for a broad spectrum of bird life, including waterfowl, marsh species, raptors and sparrows. 7:15 AM. Meet at the parking lot adjacent to the Agricultural Education Center at the end of the driveway. Leaders are Dave Webb, porzana@comcast.net or 410-939-3537 and Josh Emm, 410-937-6790 or apistopanchax@gmail.com.

■ **Howard.** Centennial Park. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected; early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available. 8 AM, 2-3 hours. Meet at west end parking lot. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org.

 **Kent.** Chesapeake Farms. Wintering waterfowl, raptors, White-crowned and other sparrows. Bring snacks. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

 **YMOS.** Ocean City. We'll begin at the Jetty looking for eiders, loons, gannets, razorbills, and scoters. We'll move inland for ducks and wintering birds. Simple lodging is available Saturday night. Saturday birding is also a possibility. More detailed information will be sent out in advance of the trip. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip. Then we will use email to coordinate actual departure times and locations, trip needs, carpooling, and additional information.

POSTMASTER: TIME-DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE EXPEDITE!

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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos,
or ideas that would be of interest to other
birders.

Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by
JAN 25, 2017 for the Mar/Apr 2017 issue.

Illustrations pp. 1,5 ©M. Suzanne Probst

**MOS Chapter Web Sites (to be consulted
for the most up-to-date trip/meeting
info)**

Allegany/Garrett: westernmdbirding.com/

Anne Arundel: aabirdclub.org/

Baltimore baltimorebirdclub.org/

Caroline: carolinebirdclubmos.blogspot.com/

Carroll: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/carroll.html

Cecil: cecilbirds.org/

Frederick: frederickbirdclub.org/

Harford: harfordbirdclub.org/

Howard: howardbirds.org/

Kent: kentcounty.com/recreation/birding/birding-club

Montgomery: montgomerybirdclub.org/

Patuxent/PG: pgaudubon.org/

Talbot: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/talbot.html

Tri-County (Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset):
tricountybirdclub.weebly.com/

Washington: washingtoncountybirdclub.webs.com/

YMOS: ymos.org/

The Maryland Yellowthroat

MARCH/APRIL 2017



VOL. 37, NO 2

President's Corner

March 2017

Barbara Johnson

In this issue's Corner, I report on a daylong retreat at Cylburn Arboretum on January 28, attended by 48 MOS members from 14 chapters, including 7 presidents and 5 treasurers.

Since the last time MOS members gathered to assess the state of the organization, so much has changed! Social media and online checklists compete with our print publications and communication at club meetings. Threats to birds continue to rise. Some chapter membership has dropped. MOS has funded and teamed with the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. A new MOS website is in the works. It was time to ask our members to help identify and respond to specific opportunities and challenges facing MOS.

Invitations went out to all MOS members in the very first all-membership email (thanks to Secretary Maryanne Dolan for developing that new ability!) Participants were 16 to 80+ years old. Both new and long-term members attended, of all levels of birding expertise and with wide-ranging professional experience.

Five working groups had been outlined in advance, including Outreach and Communications, Research and Conservation, Education, Advocacy and Lobbying, and Funding.

Long-range Planning Chair Colin Rees facilitated the meeting, plying his expertise from working with retreats

around the globe as a biodiversity conservation expert.

In the opening session, each participant was invited to introduce himself or herself, and contribute concerns and/or suggestions. Here's a small sample from notes taken:

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"improve flow of info between chapters", "include families", "how can MOS be relevant in the digital age?", "focus on zoning", "building bird-watchers", "increase cultural diversity", "more youth into MOS", "chapter members unaware of MOS actions/benefit", "partner with other groups", "unsympathetic federal administration", "what are our values?",

"small chapters need \$ support", "interact with schools", "create canned programs", "recruiting volunteers", "wise management of funds", "mobilize members around issues" and "is aging membership really a problem?" (This last was asked several times. In response, a participant reported the same concern being raised in a meeting he attended as a boy in the early '60's!).

Galvanized by the enthusiasm and insights of the first round, we broke into the five working groups. First determining priorities, each group then worked diligently to develop actions and identify individuals or groups to begin implementing actions. I was lucky to float among the groups, and it was hard to tear away from each, with so many intriguing minds cross-pollinating. After an hour's work, each group paused to report its preliminary findings. After discussion and then lunch, the group reconvened for a second round, to refine their work and construct reports (pull the tables out from the center of the newsletter). A final plenary session heard from each of the groups, who summarized their major findings. The chairs of these groups will reconvene their members and further refine proposed actions. It was suggested to hold follow-up retreat in the early fall.

We finished the day worn out but heartened by the productive work, new partnerships, and the knowledge that MOS is in the hands of energetic and intelligent folks, committed to making our organization more vibrant, attractive, relevant, and effective, and dedicated to help save Maryland bird life.



Volunteer Needed!!

MOS is seeking a volunteer with a legal background to provide occasional legal advice. From time to time issues arise and the MOS Board is uncertain whether or not to seek legal services. Since attorney's fees can be substantial, MOS would prefer to obtain initial guidance prior to engaging an attorney. If you're willing to help MOS in this way, please contact Barbara Johnson, MOS President, at president@mdbirds.com. Thank you!

Tom Strikwerda, Past President
MOS



Bird Drawing Workshop

April 21-23

The Guild of Natural Science Illustrators (GNSI), DC Chapter, will be hosting a three-day Bird Drawing Workshop at the Patuxent Research Refuge National Visitor Center, 9-4 each day. Linda Feltner will be the workshop leader; all levels are welcome. Learn about bird anatomy and draw live birds in class. Registration required, for information visit <https://gnsi.org/event/workshop/bird-drawing-linda-feltner> or contact Joel Floyd at 240-432-7496.



It's Tax Time and the Wildlife and Heritage Service Needs your Help!

DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service receives its funding from three main sources: 1) federal funds; 2) revenue

from the sale of state hunting licenses; and 3) contributions to the state income tax check-off known as the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund (half of which goes to WHS Natural Heritage Program). All three sources are critical, and a decline in any one of them can result in a funding crisis at Wildlife and Heritage.

Of immediate concern is a 40% drop in the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund in the last tax year. These funds are critical to meet matching requirements for federal dollars, which range from 25 to 35%. Tax checkoff income this past year dropped to \$325,000 compared to the normal \$500,000 annually. This fund accounts for 25% of the annual Natural Heritage Program budget and provides the match needed for projects on northern goshawks, black rails, Important Bird Areas, overwintering eastern golden eagles, determining the legal status of birds in the state, and restoring nesting islands for colonial waterbirds. In addition, tax check-off funds are the only source of support for work on rare plants. Without these funds, projects on these species and others are at risk of being curtailed or discontinued.

We in MOS know how critical is the need for the Wildlife and Heritage Service. From maintaining state Wildlife Management Areas to restoration of rare habitats and, protection and monitoring of Maryland's rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals, the Wildlife and Heritage Service takes the lead. MOS members must support them and their work if we expect these activities to continue.

So what can you do? It's simple: at tax time just check line 35 on Form 502 (the Maryland Tax Return) or line 13 on form 503 and enter in the amount you would like to donate. If someone else prepares your taxes, tell them how much you'd like to contribute. Donations to this fund are divided evenly between the rare species

programs run by the Wildlife and Heritage Service at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Bay restoration grants provided by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Not only will your donation help rare and threatened species, it will also help the Bay, and is tax deductible the following year!

If you are a Certified Public Accountant, then consider joining the "CPAs for a Healthy Bay" program led by the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT). "CPAs for a Healthy Bay" is a new program designed to encourage CPAs and other tax professionals to take a few simple steps to raise awareness of the urgent need to support the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund around tax time. For more information, check out the brochure by CBT here.

Maryanne Dolan, Secretary
Maryland Ornithological Society



Contact: Helen Strong, helen@dceff.org

2017 Environmental Film Festival Will Present 150+ Films Across the DC from March 14-26.

The 25th Anniversary Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, the largest and longest-running environmental film festival in the country, will present 150+ films selected to provide fresh perspectives on a wide variety of environmental issues facing the earth, from March 14-26. The Festival celebrates the natural world and seeks to advance understanding of the environment and

inspire wise stewardship of the planet through the power of film.

A number of films about birds and birding will be shown – see list below. Screenings will include discussion with filmmakers, scientists and environmental experts, and many are free. The complete Festival schedule and ticket information will be posted in February at www.dceff.org. Please check for any updates to programs.

Animal Homes: Nests (USA, 2016, 60 min)

Bird nests come in all shapes and sizes, crafted from a diversity of materials, including grasses, leaves, mosses, and twigs, bones, mud, and spider silk. And quite a few contain man-made materials – colorful twine, bits of wire, even plastic bags. Each one is a remarkable work of art, built with just a beak! The film explores nesting grounds all over the world, where birds create homes for the all-important task of protecting their eggs and raising their young. *From the PBS series, "Nature."* Director: Ann Johnson Prum. **Sat, Mar 18, 2 pm, FREE Q&A. National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708.**

Brothers of the Wind (Austria, 2016, 98 min)

Presented with the Embassy of Austria. This is a wild drama featuring an eagle and a boy. When an eagle chick is pushed out of his nest, Lukas rescues him and cares for him in secret, finding a love denied to him at home. But when the day comes to release the bird back into the wild, will Lukas find his own release into a new life? Directed by Gerardo Olivares and Otmar Penker. *Appropriate for kids.* **Sat, Mar 18, 10 am, Avalon Theatre (5612 Connecticut Ave., NW, Wash. DC, 20015).**

The Eagle Huntress (UK/Mongolia/USA, 2016, 87 min)

Among the isolated Kazakh tribe in northwest Mongolia, eagle hunting has

been practiced by men only. But Aisholpan, a 13-year-old girl, aspires to be the first female in 12 generations of her family to become an eagle hunter. Her decision sparks controversy in the community; this film captures Aisholpan's courage as she begins her training. *In English and Kazakh with English subtitles.* Director: Otto Bell. **Recommended ages: 9 and up. Sat, Mar 25, FREE. East Building Auditorium, National Gallery of Art**

Million Dollar Duck (USA, 2016, 71 min)

Enter the strange and wonderful world of the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, the only juried art competition run by the U.S. government. This documentary explores the eccentric nature of the contestants who apply each year for a chance at wildlife art stardom, while also reflecting upon the history and challenges facing the continued existence of this successful conservation program. Director: Brian Davis. **Sun, Mar 26, 2:30 pm, National Museum of Natural History**

RACHEL CARSON (USA, 2017, 116 min)

A Tribute to Rachel Carson

Featuring the voice of Mary-Louise Parker as the influential writer and scientist, Rachel Carson, this is an intimate portrait of the groundbreaking author who launched the modern environmental movement. Drawn from Carson's own writings, letters, and recent scholarship, the film illuminates both the public and private life of the shy, soft-spoken author of *Silent Spring*, the bestseller that sparked dramatic changes in the Government's regulation of pesticides. Director: Michelle Ferrari. **Thurs, Mar 16, 6:30 pm. FREE Q&A, Nan Tucker McEvoy Auditorium, National Portrait Gallery**

Conquest of the Skies (UK, 2015, 60 min)

A Selection from the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival

Renowned naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough investigates the evolution of flight in the natural world.

Using macroscopic and high-speed filming techniques, the film captures flying mammals, reptiles, and insects, as well as birds from all over the world. Attenborough travels from Scotland to Borneo to find the extraordinary species gracing the skies. Director: David Lee.

Sat, Mar 18, 12 pm FREE. National Museum of Natural History

NATURE SHORTS

This mix of wildlife shorts offers bird lovers a rare look at the native habitats and migratory journeys of species facing threat or extinction. All of these will be shown **Sat, Mar 18 - 11:00 AM** and are **FREE**. At the **National Wildlife Visitor Center, Laurel, MD**.

De Novo (USA, 2016, 2 min)

An orphaned seabird gets a second chance after being rescued by scientists. Director: Aditi Desai.

Mapping Migration (USA, 2016, 4 min)

Using light level geolocators, researchers examine the journeys of Golden-winged and Cerulean Warblers. Director: Aditi Desai.

Birds of May (USA, 2016, 28 min)

World Premiere

Against the scenic backdrop of the Delaware Bay, an oyster-farming boom threatens to push the Rufa Red Knot closer to extinction. Director: Jared Fleisher.

Surviving the Wild: Cats and Birds

(USA, 2016, 8 min)

Cats may be cute and cuddly, but their impact outdoors on native wildlife is another story. Director: Aditi Desai.



DID YOU KNOW?

By Maryanne Dolan, Secretary, MOS

Did you know...that the Maryland Birding Guide (www.mdbirdingguide.com) is up and running? Thanks to the dedicated work of Joan Cwi (Baltimore Chapter) and her league of merry contributors the web page is fully functional, though a few odds

and ends need to be tweaked before formal launch. Check the site. You will be as awed as I was at the excellent work Joan and her crew has done.

Did you know...that MOS can help you recognize the fine work of someone in your chapter or someone who has been especially helpful to the birding community? MOS member Joy Aso (Montgomery Chapter) stands ready to help. Joy has several award choices to offer, ranging from formal Distinguished Service Awards to more light-hearted "Atta Boy/Girl" certificates.

While the main purpose of the awards program is to recognize MOS members and their contributions to the organization, the program is also intended to recognize nonmembers who have assisted, provided a service, or contributed in some way to the MOS and its members.

All you need to do to get the ball rolling is contact Joy (smudgie@comcast.net) and your chapter president (if you want a chapter award) or Barbara Johnson, MOS President (if you want the award to come from the MOS), and voila! An award will be generated. Joy does need a few weeks notice.





ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Love is in the air!

AABC members *Joy Chambers* and *Pete Bungay* announced "we eloped to Costa Rica and married on December 16th on a trip to look for birds in rainforests in several parts of the country. Our marriage took place at the birding mecca, Rancho Naturalista Eco Lodge, in a premontane rainforest that has recorded 450 species of birds. Warned that the lawyer officiating the ceremony would be on "Tico time", we photographed hummingbirds from Rancho's famed balcony waiting for his arrival. The wedding site was a perch overlooking a deep ravine carved eons ago by a stream that now provides pools that birds like to bathe in. The lodge owner, Lisa Erb (a blond Californian), acted as translator for the vows pronounced in Spanish by the officiant in his blue lawyer suit. The wedding lunch was prepared by Lisa's mother - tacos and a white chocolate cake decorated with garden flowers. After the celebration, back to birding." *Pete Bungay*



"Happily Married"

CAROLINE COUNTY

Caroline County and Queen Anne's County folks have been enjoying the recent view on Rte 309 (Starr Road) between Rtes 404 and 213. An active bald eagle nest in a huge sycamore tree is clearly visible, and the surrounding farmland is currently hosting huge numbers of snow geese and tundra swans. For those coming to Caroline County or beaches beyond, take 301 E to the 213 Wye Mills exit, then turn left on to 309. You will enjoy the view and also avoid some of the construction on Rte 404. *Debby Bennett*

CARROLL COUNTY

On November 3, 2016 at 04:30 am, *Maureen Harvey* and I met with the Caribbean Conservation group (led by Paul Baisich and Gary Markowski) at the Miami airport for our charter flight to Havana. After 3.5 hours of chaos we finally lifted off in an old 737 aircraft that took us to Havana. Our first stop was to spend some time at the home of Orlando Garrido, the Cuban Ornithologist and author of the Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba. He talked to us about the Cuban endemics and his acquaintance with Chan Robbins. We rode on a large bus, to Pinar del Rio. The next morning we started off with a Ruddy Quail Dove which Maureen found after it had flown into a hotel

window. A worker set it in some bushes and later, after it recovered we were able to set it free and watch it fly away. We then drove to Maria La Gorda where we spent two nights while visiting Guanahahcahbibes Park. We then travelled to San Diego, Pinar del Rio and on to Playa Larga for some extensive birding in Zapata Peninsula area. Here we stayed in a private home, which takes the place of hotels in this area and allows the local people to earn some money. We then made a long drive to Sol Cayo Coco, a tourist resort on a Cay on the north coast of the country. After two days here we moved on to Sancti Spiritus and then back to Havana where we toured the city and even enjoyed a ride to Old Havana in an old 50's Ford Convertible.

We saw 26 of the 29 endemic species of Cuban birds missing only the Bare-legged Owl which was totally quiet that night, the Gundlach's Hawk, an accipiter, which was probably out hunting when we arrived in the area of its nest, and the Zapata Rail which has not had an officially confirmed sighting since the 1950's. We did have excellent looks at a Bee Hummingbird (tiny, 2 inches long), and (although not in breeding plumage) the beautiful and almost extinct Blue-headed Quail-Dove, the very musical Cuban Solitaire, the Fernandina's Flicker, the Oriente and Yellow-headed Warblers, the very difficult Zapata Wren, and the Zapata Sparrow, although the sparrow was not seen in the Zapata area but on the north coast at Cayo Romano. This sparrow has three distinct sub-species in three completely separate locations. We also saw the national bird of Cuba, the very beautiful Cuban Tropicbird, which turned out to be quite common, but still a treat to see. And we can't forget the adorable little flycatcher, the colorful Cuban Tody. All told, Maureen and I saw 35 life birds and had around 160 species. We met a lot of Cuban people who were very friendly even though they were quite poor. As Rick Steves said on his travel TV show, do not compare these people with our standard of living, but compare them with other

countries of Central America and the Caribbean. *Dave Harvey*

CECIL COUNTY

In its own way the Cecil Bird Club (CBC) continues to act locally to address conservation issues that have arisen throughout Cecil County. As a small organization it is often difficult to muster the resources necessary to make a difference. In this column last year you read about *Sean McCandless* unveiling the informational signs at the Fair Hill Natural Resource Area regarding the Bobolinks. A grant from MOS made this possible. CBC has also partnered with the county's Parks and Recreation Department to decrease the amount and frequency of mowing in some of the local parks. This has also been the case at Turkey Point in Elk Neck State Park where the CBC conducts its annual hawk watch. The group has worked with the state park to *not* mow the meadow where the hawk watch is conducted for the past two seasons. There has been an increase in bird and butterfly diversity over the past two years as a result of the club's work. Moving forward, the club will be partnering with Elk Neck to put in a series of Bluebird boxes.

Recently the Cecil County commissioners voted to accept a Tiers Map that allows for further development in the county below the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. The CBC is hoping to work with other local organizations such as the Cecil Land Trust, Cecil Soil Conservation Board, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and others to ensure that open lands continue to exist in the county. The first organizational meeting is already scheduled to take place shortly. Club members also monitor nest boxes during the spring and summer for the Department of Natural Resources at the Woodlawn Reserve, which is fast becoming a major Cecil County hot spot for birders. This was once a Bridgestone/Firestone super fund site. Despite being a small organization, the CBC plays a part in conservation efforts on

a local level that are making a difference and improving the quality of life quotient in the county.

Maryanne Dolan spent Christmas visiting family in Florida, but managed a side trip to her favorite place, Merritt Island NWR. All the big waders were present, as were a nice selection of shorebirds, but the highlights were rails. Several King Rails slipped in and out of the reeds, some more accommodating than others, but one lingered and presented killer views. What a treat!

Just before the holidays CBC members *Kim and Ken Drier* journeyed to Cuba with *Cuba Unbound* for a walking tour of some of the national parks. Within hours of landing Ken had spotted the endemic Cuban Emerald Hummingbird, the Cuban Tody and the national bird of Cuba, the Cuban Tropic with its blue, red and white colors, which mirror the colors of their flag. These were all found in Las Terrazas Biosphere and UNESCO site. Kim's favorite birds were the Flamingoes and Roseate Spoonbills, pretty in pink, at the Zapata Reserve near the infamous Bay of Pigs. Fidel Castro, the leader of Cuba during the US invasion of Cuba, had died just days before Kim and Ken started their trip. It was a solemn time for a country in mourning. At the reserve they also met with the park director, Frank Medina, to discuss conservation efforts currently under way in the country. It was a fascinating trip in many ways with plenty of good birds to see. *Ken Drier*

HARFORD COUNTY

Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Harford Bird Club held their 3rd annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids on January 7 at Swan Harbor Farm in Havre de Grace. Temperatures were in the low 20's, snow was falling and the wind was picking up but I kept reminding our birders that the first year it was only 9 degrees! Fifteen youth between the ages of 2 and 13 formed three teams and were led by experienced trip leaders as they counted birds along their specified routes. This

year the Faithful Flock tallied the most species at 20, followed by the Eagle Eyes group at 15 and Harriers at 9 species. After a refreshing break of hot chocolate and cookies, the group species total of 26 was entered on eBird and everyone watched the submission map for the "dot".

An event like this can't be successful without terrific volunteers so I'd like to especially thank trip leaders *Phil Powers*, *Dr. Dennis Kirkwood* and *John Rinker*. *Al Conrad* did a spectacular job with binocular boot camp, which always precedes the walk. Registration was handled by *Donna Johnson* and *Debbie Stewart*, *Jane Scocca* with refreshments, *Mary Trotta* was our official photographer, and *Deb Moseley* helped with binocular distribution. Harford Bird Club president *Bob Werrlein* greeted the group and special thanks go to *Peggy Eppig* for loaning us the meeting room at the Maryland Agricultural Education Center.

Christmas Bird Count for Kids was first started by Sonoma Birding (CA) in 2007 and is now conducted across North America. Events and photos can be found on their Facebook page. I encourage your club to start their own annual event.

Ruth Bergstrom



Harford Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Sad News

Centenarian, *Mary Silling*, Harford County Bird Club's oldest member, died on December 27, 2016. "Aunt Mary" attended bird club meetings for many years. She enjoyed feeding and watching birds.

Sadly, she had a fall and the club had to cancel the 100-year birthday celebration it had planned for the November meeting. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, March 25 at 11 AM at Grandview Christian Church in Fallston, MD. *Jean Wheeler*

Over the last 25 years, the Rock Run Christmas Bird Count has averaged 98 species; hence the "Quest for 100". How did we do in 2016? Well ... [drum roll please] ... 108 species!! This includes an amazing four official first-timers: Black-throated Gray Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Trumpeter Swan along with Sandhill Crane coming off of the Count Week list. Nice effort to ALL! *Rick Cheicante*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Anne Mytych from Rockville reported that she finished her first full year of birding with 297 species in December of 2016. "Nothing brings me more joy than birding and I'm grateful to MBC and MOS for offering wonderful bird walks which helped me learn so much in a short time." Anne became interested in birding in April of 2015 when she discovered a Red-shouldered Hawk living in her Twinbrook neighborhood. After a trip to the Rio Grande Valley in August 2015, where she saw Green Jays, Plain Chachalacas, a Pyrrhuloxia, an Altamira Oriole, and other unique birds, she started birding every weekend and most weekdays during lunchtime. Her life list is now 307.

Paul Budde wrote: "I was fortunate to be able to spend a month at the end of 2016 in New Zealand, from early November through early December. I was on the North Island for eight days, and then on an 18-day pelagic expedition to the Sub-Antarctic Islands, and wrapped up the trip with five days on the South Island. It's hard to identify highlights from among seven species of penguins, 13 albatrosses, four prions, three *Procellaria* and eight *Pterodroma* petrels - not to mention the many fascinating New Zealand endemic birds on the main islands. I would highly recommend such a

trip to anyone who can find the time for it."

In mid-January *Bruce Beehler* sent in the following corvid query from his Washington suburb: "For the last ten days, when I walk the dog in the morning around sunrise through our Brookmont neighborhood just above the C&O Canal, I pass by a tree filled with 40 or so Fish Crows. They assemble each morning for some reason, in the same set of trees. The birds murmur, occasionally wheel up and around the tree, and then settle back down. A few American Crows pass by and call out. Are other suburban Maryland birders seeing this winter morning phenomenon in their neighborhoods?"

Chris Wright

TRI-COUNTY

On February 4, *Barbara Dolan* led a Winter Bird Identification workshop for the Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) in Snow Hill, Worcester County. The workshop included not only tips on bird identification, but also the importance of habitat preservation; on becoming a citizen scientist by participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count and Project FeederWatch; and a "make and take" bird feeder activity. Barbara has donated many hours volunteering for the LSLT monitoring properties preserved by conservation easements and working at LSLT's annual Native Plant Sale.

Ellen Lawler had an exhibit of watercolor paintings focusing on "The Birds of Wicomico County" at the Wicomico County Library in Salisbury during the month of February. The exhibit also highlighted local birding locations and information about the Tri-County Bird Club.

Ellen Lawler



MOS Planning Retreat

Nearly 50 members of the Society drawn from most of the MOS Chapters met at the Cylburn Arboretum on 28 January, 2017 to review and comment on a series of draft MOS Action Plan Matrices (generated as part of a Long-range/Strategic Plan 2017/2019), identify priority actions, and define arrangements for their effective implementation, including follow up measures.

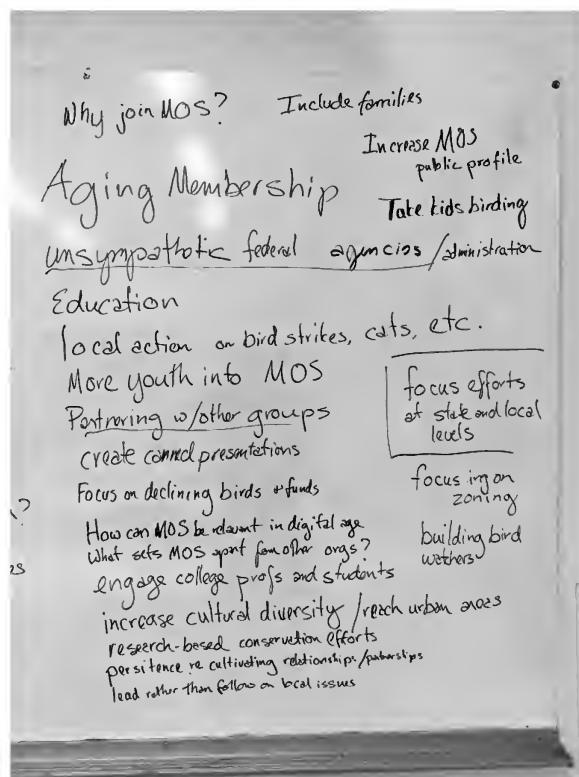
After a brief introduction on the purposes of the Retreat, members were asked to state their concerns and priorities. They gravitated around: education, an aging membership and lack of diversity, keeping pace with social media, sustaining funding, partnering, supporting MOS Chapters, challenges of the new political climate, and importance of research and citizen science to habitat management and protected areas.

This was followed by brief presentation on the MD Bird Conservation Partnership and further discussion. Five Working Group sessions were then convened to determine the needs of the thematic topics: Education; Outreach and Communication; Bird Study and Conservation; Advocacy and Lobbying; and, Funding. Each Group was led by a chair and tasked to identify specific actions to be adopted by the MOS tied to relevant performance indicators and ownership. After reporting their findings to the second plenary, the Groups reconvened to define arrangements, including responsibilities, to implement the proposed actions over a 3-year period. In addition, changes were suggested to the structure of the Executive Board and the Standing and other Committees to gain efficiencies and meet emerging challenges.

In a final plenary session, each of the Groups reported its findings and recommended actions and time-bound deliverables. Revised Action Plan Matrices are presented below detailing Objectives, Actions to be Taken, Performance

Indicators and Responsibilities for each of the thematic topics. Each Group is expected to meet periodically to further flesh out the actions, indicators and responsibilities as part of an on-going work program. The chairs are also tasked to report progress to the MOS Executive Board and the Chair of the Long-range Planning Committee. It was agreed that another meeting would be called in the Fall to report and measure progress.

Participants at the Retreat recognized that the MOS has to undertake a paradigm shift in favor of mainstreaming the conservation of bird species and their habitat. With 141 listed by the State Wildlife Action Plan as species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) and many natural habitats being significantly eroded, the future of birdlife is clearly at stake. MOS, the MD Bird Conservation Partnership and its partners have the requisite skills, technology and convening power to take up the challenge. What is needed is to put this together into a coherent whole.





Colin Rees, Chair
Long-range Planning



Conservation Committee Report, Fall 2016

Action opened in September with letters to the Maryland US Congressional Delegation opposing the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act, which would give away federal lands in Utah. The bill passed the Natural Resources Committee 21-13 in September. George Alderson authored these letters.

A letter to the *Washington Post* pointing out the flagrant fallacies of Trap-Neuter-Release for feral cats expressed in another letter to the editor was not published.

We wrote to the Mayor of Grays Harbor, WA supporting their efforts to deny permits to oil terminals on Grays Harbor. This came about at the request of former AA Chapter member Ross Geredian.

We also wrote to the Ohio Air National Guard expressing shock over a wind turbine proposed for the south shore of Lake Erie. We had opposed an earlier proposal, which was quashed due to failure to observe federal law. We have received no reply, despite a request.

American Bird Conservancy has filed suit against the Ohio ANG on this issue.

The Washington, DC Department of Energy and Environment issued an alert in late October over a plan at the National Arboretum to plow up 12 acres of meadow to install a formal garden. Meadow habitat is vanishingly rare in DC, and we wrote a letter urging that the No Action alternative of the Environmental Assessment be taken. The American Bird Conservancy joined this letter. Ground-breaking for the garden occurred a week after public comment closed, but we have heard from the DC DEE that the NEPA process is ongoing.

In November we learned that public hunting was to begin at Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area. Previously, a strictly limited and managed hunt prevented the deer from over-browsing. The new public hunting would allow an increase by 400% or more hunters on the property. Unauthorized access also grew.

In response, we wrote to the MD Secretary of Department of Natural Resources, to the Director of the Wildlife and Heritage Service, and also to the Superintendent of the Park Service opposing these changes, which were also made without public comment or consultation of stake-holders. This letter was joined by the Howard and Patuxent Chapters, American Bird Conservancy, and Prince George's Audubon Society. An alert was also sent out to mdbirding.com, the Maryland Birding and Notable Birds of Maryland FaceBook Pages, and MOS Chapters. I also attended a meeting of the Bowie Town Council, and expressed our concern. Marcia Watson and Dave Mozurkewich of Patuxent Chapter also attended that meeting.

Secretary Belton replied in a letter, expressing shock that the birding community opposed deer control, and stating the hunting program would continue. But public comment would be solicited in the near future. We wrote a

reply indicating that MOS whole-heartedly supports deer control, and urged that public outreach and consultation indeed come about. Ken Cohen of Prince George Audubon provided valuable input to that letter.

In response to a call from DC DEEE, we also wrote Washington City Council opposing an amendment to a bill that would make Trap-Neuter-Release the only legal means of dealing with feral cats. We learned after the letters had been emailed that the amendment had been pulled two days before the letters were sent.

Finally, in response to an alert for the Maryland Biodiversity Project, we wrote to University of Maryland officials, (UMD President, the Dean of College of Agriculture, and the Chair of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture), opposing defunding of the Norton-Brown Herbarium, threatening to close the facility. The University replied that the herbarium was not being fully defunded, only cut back somewhat. No mention, however, was made of a permanent funding source for the herbarium.

Finally, I attended the 10th Annual Meeting of the Pesticides and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Project at the invitation of the Maryland Pesticide Action Network in November.

Kurt Schwarz, Chair

Book Reviews

As we sit in winter's gloom, our minds invariably travel to warmer climes and their glittering images. Permit me, therefore, to indulge your senses further by drawing your attention to some recent publications on Southeast Asia, the Galapagos and New Guinea.

Wildlife of Southeast Asia by Susan Myers (Princeton Pocket Guide, 256 p. Princeton

University Press, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0691154855), who works for WINGS Birding Tours, is a photographic field guide showing the exceptional diversity of region's wildlife. While over 600 photographs aid the user identify and learn about the status and distribution of the commonest species, an introductory chapter provides succinct accounts of the best spots for viewing wildlife. These include such gems as Kalaw and Inle Lake in Myanmar, Khao Yai National Park in Thailand, Nam Kading National Protected Area in Laos, Tonle Sap in Cambodia and Da Lat Plateau Endemic Area in Vietnam. Useful tips are provided to ease of passage.

With similar intent, an updated *Wildlife of the Galapagos* by Julian Fitter, Daniel Fitter and David Hosking (Princeton Pocket Guides, 272 p. Princeton University Press, 2nd Ed., 2016, ISBN-13: 978-0691170428) provides a most useful guide to the truly exceptional fauna and flora of one of the world's most significant biological hotspots. Some 650 photographs of the commonly seen plants, invertebrates, fish, reptiles, birds and mammals accompany a most serviceable text, and chapters discuss the island's history, climate, geology, ecological zones and conservation needs. Notes for the visitor and maps and details on sites are particularly useful. Readers will be chastened by a conservation plea by the former directors of the Galapagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Research Station.

Very different is the *Birds of New Guinea: Distribution, Taxonomy and Systematics* by Bruce M. Beehler and Thane K. Pratt (Princeton University Press, Revised Ed., 2016, ISBN-13: 978-0691164243). Here is a most scholarly account of 800 hundred species of which 350 are found nowhere else on the planet. Those who have been lucky enough to have visited this largest tropical island will have experienced its spectacular avifauna with birds of paradise, bowerbirds,

cassowaries, magapodes and owlet-nightjars to name but a few. A geographic gazetteer and explanations of taxonomic and systemic and accounts of 75 species new to the region allow the reader to become fully conversant with research conducted over the last 70 years. While the tome is too heavy to carry into the field, the authors' pocket-sized second edition of *Birds of New Guinea* will assure intrepid birders about what awaits before them.

Colin Rees, Anne Arundel



Birds of Note – by Les Roslund

Autumn in Maryland in 2016 attracted several fascinating species, some of which stayed around long enough to give birders plenty of opportunity to find and enjoy them. The most notable of the group was a BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER that showed up Nov 26 at the Tydings Memorial Park, Havre de Grace, Harford County and stayed until Jan 15, 2017. The discoverers were Rob and Lisa Ann Fanning of Morgantown, NJ. Both are skilled and experienced birders. They quickly recognized the bird and within minutes Lisa posted the finding on MD Birding via Facebook. Josh Emm and Dominique Bayne of Harford County were the first Maryland Birders to reach the scene, and many others soon followed. This sighting was the first for the species in Harford County and is likely to become only the seventh accepted sighting in Maryland. The bird normally winters in Mexico and southward. During the breeding season the species is only rarely found east of New Mexico. Josh Emm faithfully monitored the presence of this bird and reported it almost daily from Nov

22 to Jan 15. There were no additional reported sightings after that date.

To the surprise and joy of regional birders, a second BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER was found in nearby District of Columbia on Dec 30. This bird showed up in a residential section of DC near American University. The finder was Hugh McGuinness. Hugh looked for the bird each day after the discovery, and continued to report it through Jan 07. No additional sightings were reported after that.

Christmas Counts bring out many of the best birders of each count area, along with good numbers of skilled birders from elsewhere. Groups like that often find some great birds. Proving the point this year, the Lower Kent County CBC birding team found a pair of PINK-FOOTED GEESE on Dec 18. Amada Spears, a widely recognized local birder, found the two geese in a small flock of CANADA GEESE near Reese's Corner Road (west of Rte. 20 between Rock Hall and Fairlee). Amanda drew them to the attention of three other members of her CBC team. After the team left, no additional sightings of the PINK-FOOTEDS were reported.

The Point Lookout CBC in St. Mary's County turned up a drake BARROW'S GOLDENEYE among hundreds of COMMON GOLDENEYES and other duck species that were present during this Dec 18 count. The birds were visible from the grounds of the Elms Environmental Education Center, but separating out a particular BARROW'S GOLDENEYE from the numerous COMMONS was no easy task due to the distance and wind conditions that were involved. Fortunately, the CBC team members were Tyler Bell and David Moulton, both being skilled birders with sufficient patience to keep sorting the birds until they found what they sought. What they sought was much like an old friend, for this was the sixth consecutive year in which a BARROW'S drake has been located during the Pt. Lookout CBC. This bird is continuing in the area as of this

writing. The most recent sighting report was filed on Jan 26 by Vince deSanctis of Talbot County.

St. Mary's County hosted a visit by another great bird, beginning on Dec 13 when Pat Rose of Callaway caught sight of a BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK in her yard at one of her feeders. The bird was quite skittish, but Pat managed to get a photo suitable for identification purposes. She announced the sighting and forwarded her photo of it to the MD Notable Bird Sightings Facebook group. Pat, an experienced birder, was quite aware that this bird ranked as a mega-rarity species in Maryland. Jim Green of Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, briefly viewed the bird on Dec 14, as did Tyler Bell and Jane Kostenko and others. The bird returned to Pat's feeders fairly regularly for the next week, and Pat was a very gracious host. There may have been later visits by this bird, but none were widely reported.

St. Mary's County began hosting a wintering hatch-year female RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD in late November and the bird has continued to use the feeder of the host until at least Jan 22. Interested birders have been directed to the Wildewood Neighborhood Walk, Wildewood, St. Mary's County. Tyler Bell and Jane Kostenko have faithfully provided periodic updates on the status of this bird.

On Dec 03 Jim Stasz observed a RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD at a private residence in Stevensville, Queen Anne's County. His report included several excellent photos that clearly supported the identification of this very late migrant. One photo even showed the bird drawing nectar from a pineapple sage blossom.

Two NORTHERN SHRIKES chose to use Maryland as a wintering site this year. The first was reported by Dan Small in Queen Anne's County on Dec 4. This was a hatch-year bird, and it was found along Ben's Point Road near Church Hill. It apparently found the wintering conditions

suitable, for it was reliably present along or near Ben's Point Road until Jan 22. The young oak trees in that development provided excellent feeding sites and also made it easy for birders to spot the bird.

The second NORTHERN SHRIKE in this region was found by Kathy Colston on Jan 1st near Triadelphia Reservoir, Montgomery County. It was not reported again until Jan 7th when Tom Field relocated it. This one was difficult to view since it chose to perch in a brushy area on private property. Persistent birders were rewarded with sightings over the next few days, but few good photos were attained. Reports of sightings continued until Jan 18 when what turned out to be the final report was submitted by Joe Hanfman of Columbia, Howard County.

And finally, most birders looking for SNOWY OWLS in our area this winter have been disappointed. One notable exception occurred on Dec 7, according to a second-hand report from Patricia Wood of Silver Spring. Pat saw a MDBirding Facebook report of a SNOWY OWL that was seen Dec 7th on the Bay Bridge near Hemingway's. She kindly forwarded it to give it wider circulation. No other SNOWY OWL reports have shown up this winter.



Maryland/DC Records Committee

Status Report as of January 26, 2017
by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the last committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review packages 165 through 166. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed

in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. A new "state" species (marked with an asterisk) is Thayer's Gull for DC. This addition brings the total number of species on the Official List of the Birds of the District of Columbia to 336. The total number of species on the Official List of the Birds of Maryland remains at 450.

These official lists and more information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at the following URL:

<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>

MD Records Accepted:

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator* [MD/2015-093]. Gunners Lake, Germantown, Montgomery County. 11-Dec-2015 through 31-Jan-2016. Three immature birds.

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator* [MD/2016-001]. Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Prince George's County. 18-Dec-2015 through 22-Mar-2016. At least two birds.

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator* [MD/2016-013]. Ulmstead Point Park, Arnold, Anne Arundel County. ~17-Feb-2016 through 22-Feb-2016. One bird.

Tufted Duck, *Aythya fuligula* [MD/2016-015]. Hart-Miller Island, Millers Island, Baltimore County. 22-Mar-2016. One male.

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [MD/2016-036]. Poplar Island, Sherwood, Talbot County. 30-Sep-2013. One bird.

Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii* [MD/2016-031]. Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County. 04-Jun-2016. One bird.

Roseate Tern, *Sterna dougallii* [MD/2016-030]. Skimmer Island, Ocean City, Worcester County. 21-Jun-2016 through 28-Jun-2016. One or two birds.

MD Records Not Accepted:

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator* [MD/2013-097]. Frederick Christian Fellowship Church, Frederick, Frederick County. 05-Dec-2013 through 07-Dec-2013. One bird.

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator* [MD/2015-046]. Patuxent Research Refuge/North Tract, Laurel, Anne Arundel County. 03-May-2015 through 13-May-2015. Up to six birds; four adults and two immatures.

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator* [MD/2015-058]. Quail Covey Farm - later, Pemberton Manor, Queen Anne, Queen Anne's County. 04-Jul-2015 through 09-Jul-2015. One bird.

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator* [MD/2016-016]. Arnold, Anne Arundel County. 20-Jan-2016 through ~26-Jan-2016. One bird.

Trumpeter Swan, *Cygnus buccinator* [MD/2016-019]. Ijamsville, Frederick County. 21-Jan-2016 through 22-Jan-2016. One adult.

Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* [MD/2003-159]. St. Michaels, Talbot County. 02-Jun-1988. One bird.

Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis* [MD/2016-024]. Marion Station, Somerset County. 20-Apr-2016. One bird, heard.

Yellow Rail, *Coturnicops noveboracensis* [MD/2016-026]. Franklin Point State Park, Shady Side, Anne Arundel County. 30-May-2016. One bird.

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii* [MD/2015-085]. Elk Neck State Park, North East, Cecil County. 24-Oct-2015. One bird.

Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsonii* [MD/2016-028]. American Chestnut Land Trust, Port Republic, Calvert County. 14-May-2016. Two birds.

Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus* [MD/2016-047]. Fort Smallwood Park, Pasadena, Anne Arundel County. 17-Jun-2016. Eight birds.

Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator* [MD/2016-050]. Baltimore, Baltimore County. 12-Oct-2016. One male.

DC Records Accepted:

Franklin's Gull, *Leucophaeus pipixcan* [DC/2016-043]. Potomac River. 23-Sep-2016. One adult.

*Thayer's Gull, *Larus thayeri* [DC/1999-007]. Tidal Basin. 23-Feb-1997. One first-winter bird.

*Thayer's Gull, *Larus thayeri* [DC/2009-020]. Hains Point. 15-Feb-2004 through 21-Feb-2004. One first winter bird.



Editor's Note

This issue has several contributions slightly beyond the usual scope of the *Yellowthroat*. First, there are five matrices that outline the thinking that occurred at the MOS Planning Retreat on 28 January. This process of rethinking roles and goals is so important for an organization to remain vital. Another really cool item is the Bird Drawing workshop organized by Ikumi Kayama...if you have a need to check out Ikumi's stellar qualifications, I suggest you head on over to her TEDx talk

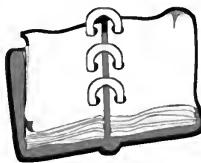
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cX8sqJYj06I>). Finally, I am thrilled that, for the 3rd year in a row, we have an announcement of the Washington DC Environmental Film Festival. A veritable orgy of environmental and ornithological cinema!

I enjoy being Editor of *The Maryland Yellowthroat* because it is easy. I do very little to the submitted items, because the contributors, both regular and occasional,

do their jobs very well. Frequently, all that is required is to add the author's names to the item, since it seems that modesty runs rampant in the membership. Also, I like the exposure I get to the ground-level activism on environmental issues and our member's keen appreciation of birds and birding gives me great hope for the future.

But, all good things come to an end, and I would like to step down from being the Editor. My reasons are entirely personal...I will be slowly shifting my residence to New Hampshire, which, in the Internet Age, is not a deal-breaker, but I believe MOS would be better served by someone more local. With the next issue of the *Yellowthroat*, I will have been in this role for 5 full years...not long, but a chunk of time, nonetheless.

So, I am inviting YOU to consider becoming the next Editor of the *Yellowthroat*. Just send me an email (rdonham8@gmail.com) or to our MOS President, Barbara Johnson (barbarajohnson222@gmail.com) and we will answer questions that you might have.



MOS Calendar

Mar - Apr 2017
By Marilyn VEEK

Wednesday, March 1

■ **Baltimore.** First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Dragonflies and Damselflies" by *Jim McCann*. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Cecil.** *Jean Woods*, Curator of Birds at the Delaware Natural History Museum, will present a program on shorebirds in the Delaware Bay. 7-8:30 PM. Cecil County Administration Building. For more information, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Thursday, March 2

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Wil Hershberger* will speak on his prairie studies. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd. Contact Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Luther Goldman Birding Trail. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Hts. For beginners and experts. Bird checklist available. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@verizon.net, for more info.

Friday, March 3

BUSINESS/AWARDS DINNER. **Harford.** Special presentation "Harbingers of Spring" by *Kevin Dodge*. Kevin is a kindred spirit, and gifted teacher from Garrett College. He enjoys an otherworldly connection to, and appreciation of, all things natural, and has an uncanny knack for inspiring students

and audiences of all ages. Reservations are necessary. Dinner at 6:15 PM, business/awards meeting at 7, and presentation at 8. Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd. For more information, contact Johanne Henrickson at johen24@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 4

MOS BOARD MEETING. Hosted by Patuxent/PG County. College Park Airport conference room. Field trip to Lake Artemesia beforehand. Contact Maryanne Dolan, MOS Secretary, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Middle Creek WMA. Bring lunch for an all-day trip to visit this major gathering place north of Lancaster, PA for Snow Geese and other waterfowl. There is also an excellent display of mounted birds in the visitor center. Note: Trip may go elsewhere if Middle Creek is frozen over. Watch our club website and newsletter and e-bulletin to learn which date we choose, depending on winter conditions and how soon the waterfowl are likely to turn up there. Snow date: Sat Mar. 11. Contact leader(s) to learn if trip is on or off, due to ice on lake or weather conditions. 8 AM. Meet at Timonium P&R. Leaders Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete_webb@juno.com, and Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

■ **Howard.** Waterfowl Search for ducks, grebes, mergansers and loons. Chance of an early migrant. 8 AM (half day). Meet at Lake Elkhorn Broken Land Pkwy parking lot to carpool. Leader Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643 or krschwa1@verizon.net.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regularly scheduled walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at the gate at end of Lemon Br Rd, off Laurel-Bowie Rd just n. of the MARC line. No reservations needed. 7:30 AM. For more info, contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, March 5

■ Anne Arundel. Patuxent River Driving Tour. Join Naturalist Lisa Bierer-Garrett looking for winter birds along the Patuxent and Mattaponi Rivers. We will walk some sections and drive to complete the 4 mile tour exiting from the Merkle side to Croom Rd. Plan for cold weather and some good views of Bald Eagles, wintering ducks, and herons. We will check farm fields of Canada Geese to scan for Cackling Geese or other winter vagrants. 7 AM (half day). Meet at Rt 2 Lothian P&R (just north of Rt 258 Deale Rd.) Contact Lisa Bierer-Garrett at 301-751-4344 or froglipp@gmail.com.

■ Harford. Swan Harbor Farm Park. This Harford Co. gem with three impoundments, a commanding view of the Chesapeake Bay, wooded trails, and open fields has developed into a fine location for a broad spectrum of bird life, including waterfowl, marsh species, raptors and sparrows. 7:15 AM. Meet at the parking lot adjacent to the Ag Education Ctr at the end of the driveway. Leaders are Dave Webb, porzana@comcast.net or 410-939-3537 and Josh Emm, 410-937-6790 or apistopanchax@gmail.com.

■ Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected; early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available. 8 AM, 2-3 hours. Meet at west end parking lot. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org.

■ Kent. Chesapeake Farms. Wintering waterfowl, raptors, White-crowned and other sparrows. Bring snacks. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Talbot. Late afternoon and evening at Pickering Creek. Early March is peak time for hearing and possibly seeing the elusive "timber doodle" (or American Woodcock to most of us). The fields around Pickering

Creek can be filled with peenting woodcock at sunset. Before the show begins, look for sparrows, Rusty Blackbirds and other woodland species. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 3:30 PM or meet at Pickering Creek parking lot at about 4 PM. Leader Ron Ketter, rketter@verizon.net.

 **YMOS.** Ocean City. We'll begin at the Jetty looking for eiders, loons, gannets, razorbills, and scoters. We'll move inland for ducks and wintering birds. Simple lodging is available Saturday night. Saturday birding is also a possibility. More detailed information will be sent out in advance of the trip. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip. Then we will use email to coordinate actual departure times and locations, trip needs, carpooling, and additional information.

Tuesday, March 7

MEETING. **Baltimore.** *Bob Mumford* on "National Wildlife Refuges, National Treasures." Bob has visited eighty national wildlife refuges from Moosehorn in Maine to Tijuana Slough in California; from Alaska Maritime in the Aleutians to Key Deer in the Keys. He will share photos of everything from Spruce Grouse to Rattlesnakes to Yellow-headed Blackbirds and back. 7 PM. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore.

Wednesday, March 8

■ Harford. Timberdoodle Search. Join this evening watch for one of our most interesting (and elusive) birds, the American Woodcock, as it performs its spring mating sky dance. Meet promptly at 6 PM at the gate to Harford Glen (the gate will be open for only a few minutes), 502 W Wheel Rd. Leaders Dave Larkin (410-509-8319; larkin3001@comcast.net), Amanda Koss (443-528-4306; amandakoss01@hotmail.com) and Jane Scocca (410-272-8870; jane@scocca.org).

■ Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Walks until dusk. Joint trip with ANS. We will be checking out the river and the leader will not leave Riley's for Hughes Hollow until 5:30 PM. Highlights here will include waterfowl flying into roost. We will try for displaying woodcock if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations not required-all are welcome. Meet promptly at 4 PM at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge". For more info call leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036 (cell).

Thursday, March 9

MEETING. **Howard.** "Mom's Big Year," by *Nancy McAllister*. Join this ambitious mother with three young children, husband and two unexpected jobs as she spent 2016 trying to list as many birds as possible. Nancy traveled to US hotspots from coast to coast. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Friday, March 10

MEETING/ANNUAL SOCIAL. **Montgomery.** Join us for our annual social, with guest of honor Anna Urciolo. There will be a Silent Auction of a selection of Claudia Wild's books. Member photographs will also be shared. The evening begins with a social hour at 6:30 PM, followed by dinner at 7:30. Woodend (Audubon Naturalist Society HQ), 8940 Jones Mill Rd, Chevy Chase. Smokey Glen Farm of Gaithersburg will once again cater this delicious dinner. Send your check (\$20 per person), payable to Montgomery Bird Club, to Stephanie Lovell, 15302 Pine Orchard Dr 3K, Silver Spring, MD 20906. Stephanie's email is ctlovell1@yahoo.com. Sign up deadline is March 6.

Saturday, March 11

■ Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Leader Alan Young produced a checklist of the birds of Kinder Farm Park and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM

(half day.) Take the first left before the gatehouse (free entry). Meet at the last parking lot up the hill on the left. Contact Alan and Susan Young at 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

■ Baltimore. North Point SP. We will walk down the path to Black Marsh Wildlands, a great spot for various wetland birds, raptors, warblers and flycatchers. The woods around the Black Marsh area host woodpeckers and other land birds. At the bayfront we'll check for scaup and other waterfowl. Paths may be muddy. 8 AM (half day.) Meet in the parking lot just after the toll booth. There is a fee of \$3 per car to enter the park. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ Carroll. Woodcock Walk at Morgan Run. Come strain your eyes and ears to appreciate these curious birds as they perform their annual counting ritual. Last year we found around 20 of this species! 6 PM. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Ben Rose Ln. Contact Allan McQuarrie at 410-552-1278 if you plan to attend.

■ Cecil. Cabin Fever. This family-friendly and fun community outreach event will take place between 11 AM and 2 PM. We'll have supplies for children's activities. Volunteers are requested to greet families and tell them how great the Cecil Bird Club is. Moore's Chapel United Methodist Church, 392 Blake Rd, Elkton. For more information contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

■ Frederick. Black Hills Reservoir. Look for Bald Eagles and over-wintering waterfowl. Contact David Smith, 410-549-7082 or Tom Humphrey, 240-793-2508, for time and directions.

■ Montgomery. Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area. Joint trip with ANS. Waterfowl, Wilson's Snipe, winter and early spring songbirds, Ospreys displaying. Wear muddy conditions footwear. 8 AM (half day.) Meet at parking by park hdqtrs. Reservations required

(15-person limit.) Leader John Bjerke, johnbjerke1@mac.com.

■ Patuxent/PG. Cash Lake at the Patuxent Research Refuge (South Tract). We will walk around the lake for lingering waterfowl, early migrants, and whatever else may be around. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Wolf Sculpture in front of the Visitor Center, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop. Contact Ken Cohen, kvulture@aol.com or 716-462-3860.

■ Tri-county. Bombay Hook NWR for waterfowl, raptors, late wintering birds and early spring returns. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or the Bombay Hook Visitor Center at 9 AM. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. For information, contact trip leaders Betty Pitney at 410-543-1853 or Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

Sunday, March 12 (Daylight Saving Time starts)

■ Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. David Gillum will lead this monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8 AM (half day.) Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 8: 30 AM (half day.) Meet at Nature Center parking lot. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ Howard. Centennial Park. Waterfowl expected early migrant passerines possible. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. 8 AM. West end parking lot.
Leader TBD.

■ Talbot. Ackridge Properties along Oxford Road and Town of Oxford Waterfront, if time permits. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leaders Paul & Priscilla Thut, 410-745-6657 or pdthut@gmail.com. Breakfast Host Mary Cotton, Oxford.

Monday, March 13

MEETING. **Talbot.** Speaker TBA. 7 PM. Bayleigh Chase Auditorium (aka William Hill Manor Auditorium), 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton.

Tuesday, March 14

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** *Mary Huebner* will speak on "Birding the Oregon Coast." 7 PM. Compton Hall, Room TBA, Frostburg State University.

MEETING. **Kent.** *Desiree Narango* of the University of Delaware will speak on "Carolina Chickadees." 7:30 PM. Light refreshments follow the program. Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off E Campus Ave, Chestertown.

■ Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Walks until dusk. Joint trip with ANS. We will be checking out the river and the leader will not leave Riley's for Hughes Hollow until 5:30 PM. Highlights here will include waterfowl flying into roost. We will try for displaying woodcock if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations not required-all are welcome. Meet promptly at 4 PM at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge". For more info call leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036 (cell).

MEETING. **Patuxent/PG.** "Brazil: Rio, Iguazu and the Pantanal" presented by *Gregory Kearns*. Greg, long-time naturalist, rail and osprey bander/researcher and photographer at Patuxent River Park, spent time in Brazil on an exchange program invitation through Partners of the Americas to consult on parks and environmental issues. Greg will share these experiences through his always fascinating stories and

pictures as he explores Rio de Janeiro, Iguazu Falls, and the Pantanal. Learn about the natural history of the region and see photographs of creatures such as endangered golden lion tamarins, coatis, capybaras, marsh deer, caiman, and a great diversity of birds, including the Hyacinth Macaw, Red-legged Seriema, Black-collared Hawk, Guira Cuckoo, and Jabiru, to name a few. The formal program begins at 7:30 PM, but doors open at 7 for informal conversation, refreshments, and exchange of birding news. College Park Airport Operations Bldg.

Wednesday, March 15

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "A Traveling Tented Safari in Botswana and South Africa" with *Larry Zoller*. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to take a traveling safari in Africa? Larry Zoller, a past president of AABC, will share his experiences during a safari to Botswana and South Africa. Come see lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos and a wide variety of birds that congregate near the Okavango Delta and the Chobe River. 7 PM. Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact Barbara Johnson at 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

■ Harford. Timberdoodle Search. Join us this evening at 7 PM at the Edgewood Home Depot parking lot on the west side at a location that has produced fascinating Woodcock activity as darkness begins to descend. Leaders Tim Houghton, timhoughton@comcast.net or 410-510-7504, and Elaine Beery, 410-272-6037 or ehbeery@yahoo.com.

Thursday, March 16

MEETING. Caroline. "The Best of Danny Poet" nature photos (rescheduled from January.) 7:30 PM, Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

■ Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Walks until dusk. Joint trip with ANS. We will be checking out the river and the leader will not leave Riley's for Hughes Hollow until 5:30 PM. Highlights here will

include waterfowl flying into roost. We will try for displaying woodcock if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations not required-all are welcome. Meet promptly at 4 PM at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge". For more info call leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036 (cell).

■ Patuxent/PG. Luther Goldman Birding Trail. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Hts. For beginners and experts. Bird checklist available. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@verizon.net, for more info.

Saturday, March 18

■ Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. Alan and Susan Young will lead this trip around Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of the Park and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day.) Take the first left before the gatehouse (free entry). Meet at the last parking lot up the hill on the left. Contact Alan and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or almyoung@aol.com.

■ Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Can be called in bad weather. 8 AM (half day.) Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Wendy Alexander, 410-788-4080 or drbeanes@verizon.net.

■ Frederick. Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary nature walk sponsored by Audubon Society of Central MD. See what birds and other wildlife we can spot together. 9 AM at the Sanctuary entrance, 13030 Old Annapolis Rd, Mt. Airy. For more information, contact Crystal Kunst at 443-536-3071 or hckunst@qic.net.

■ Howard. Sharps at Waterford Farm. Moderate walking over crop stubble, farm roads and paths on this working farm.

Fields with crop residue, extensive woodlands, Cattail Creek and floodplain, three ponds and five shallow waterfowl impoundments make for diverse habitats and good birding opportunities. Port-a-pots available. Knee-high waterproof footwear required for part of walk. 8 AM (half day). Meet at farm parking area, through barns on right. Rt 97 S to right on Jennings Chapel Rd, 1 mile to right into farm at sign. Leader Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com or 410-531-3197.

■ Patuxent/PG. Regularly scheduled walk at Governor Bridge Park in conjunction with Prince Georges Audubon Society. 7:30 AM. Meet inside the gate at the Park on Gov Br Rd, 1 mile from Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more info, contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Saturday-Sunday, March 18-19

 **YMOS.** Maryland Youth Birdathon/Fundraising for World Series of Birding. The group will begin in Ocean City on Saturday morning and end up in Dorchester County by evening. The search will resume Sunday morning in Dorchester and conclude by the Bay Bridge late Sunday afternoon. Lodging will be available Friday and Saturday nights in Dorchester County. Students will need money for meals. Participants can come either or both days. 5 AM Saturday – 5 PM Sunday. More detailed information will be sent out in advance of the trip. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip. Then we will use email to coordinate actual departure times and locations, trip needs, carpooling, and additional information.

Sunday, March 19

■ Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected; woodland trails for passerines. Facilities available. 8 AM, 2-3 hours. Meet at west end parking lot. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org.

■ Talbot. Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Expect a variety of sparrows, wintering waterfowl and possibly an overwintering golden eagle. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM OR meet at Pickering Creek parking lot at 7:20AM. Leader Dave Bent, 410-822-2133 or davebent39@gmail.com. Breakfast Host: Bobbi Wells at Pickering Creek.

Saturday, March 25

■ Allegany/Garrett. Rocky Gap, Mason Road Pond and C&O Canal Terminus. With Washington Co Bird Club. First stop will be the Rocky Gap SP Beach area. We will travel to several spots for waterfowl before moving on to Mason Rd Pond and the C & O Canal Terminus. 9 AM. Carpool will leave from the NRP office, 12512 Pleasant Valley Rd near entrance to Rocky Gap SP. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ Anne Arundel. Patuxent – North Tract. One of our youngest members, Chris Barry will lead this trip. The North Tract features open fields, mature forests, several ponds, access to the Little Patuxent River and marshes connected by a 12-mile driving loop. With the wide variety of habitats and the beginning of the spring migration, we expect to see numerous species of birds. Minimal walking is necessary as we travel to each location by vehicle. Scopes are beneficial for the ponds. 8 AM (half day.) Meet at Parole P&R. Contact Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

■ Cecil. Blackwater & Beyond. This trip is designed to see large numbers of waterfowl during the height of spring staging season, at Blackwater NWR. Bald Eagles are a bonus feature. Ospreys may be newly arrived and if so, will be setting up territories. Some early shorebirds might be on the move. Come take advantage of the peaceful Eastern Shore ambiance before the tourist season sets in. Bring breakfast, lunch and snacks; there are few opportunities to purchase food in the vicinity. Dress for possible extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you

have one. Some easy walking on level ground. 6 AM (full day trip.) Meet near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt 40 and Rt 213 in Elkton. Leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

■ Kent. Prime Hook NWR, Delaware. Spring birding for late waterfowl, herons, raptors, early shorebirds and songbirds. 8 AM. Full day, bring lunch. Meet at Dollar General off Philosopher's Terrace in Chestertown. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Washington. Rocky Gap SP and surrounding area with Allegany/Garrett Bird Club (see above.) 7 AM (full day.) MVA parking lot. Contact Mark Abdy at 301-432-7696 or mjabdy@yahoo.com to participate.

Sunday, March 26

■ Baltimore. Papermill Flats and Ashland NCR Trail. Trip to two locations for marsh birds, lingering waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds. Bring spotting telescope if you have one. 8:30 AM. Meet at NCR Trail parking lot, north side of Ashland/Paper Mill Road. Leaders Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net, and Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

■ Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected; early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available. 8 AM, 2-3 hours. Meet at west end parking lot. Leader Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net or 410-461-2408.

■ Talbot. SW Caroline Co, in and around Choptank. Views over the Choptank River can be rewarding in early spring for waterfowl and unusual gulls. Will visit Poplar neck Marsh for marsh birds and sparrows. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leader Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376 or dpalmermd59@gmail.com.

Monday, March 27

MEETING. **Tri-county.** "Lower Shore Land Trust's Pollinator Program", presented by *Kate Patton*, Executive Director of the LS LT. 7 PM. MAC Education Center, 909 Progress Circle (off Snow Hill Rd), Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net for more information.

Tuesday, March 28

MEETING. **Washington.** "East Africa 2016 Highlights" with Mark Abdy. Meeting begins at 7 PM at the Mt. Aetna Nature Ctr, located at 21905 Mt. Aetna Rd, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 for details.

Saturday, April 1

■ Allegany/Garrett. Garrett County Ponds. We'll visit Finzel Swamp, Piney Reservoir, Meadows Lake and Campground, and New Germany SP (if time permits). 9 AM. Carpool from Parkside School in LaVale. 9:30 AM. Meet at Finzel Swamp. Contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ Anne Arundel. Workshop: Introduction to Bird Photography. Join Emily Carter Mitchell of Capital Photography Center at Sandy Point Park for a morning of learning the techniques and skills needed to photograph our feathered friends. Beginning with an introduction to the elements of photography and the camera settings used for bird photography, we will then walk the park in search of subjects to practice with. Sandy Point Park offers a wide variety of bird species in different habitats. 8:30 AM (half day.) Meet on the South Beach near the small boat launching area. An RSVP is required. Contact Emily Carter Mitchell at 410-336-4666.

■ Harford. Lapidum. Look for gulls, lingering waterfowl and perhaps some early surprises. Additional sites in the Park may be visited. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Lapidum parking lot at the south end of

Susquehanna SP. Leaders Dennis Kirkwood, 410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com, and Matt Addicks.

■ Howard. Mt. Pleasant Beginners' Walk. Gentle ramble around rough pastures, brushy thickets and stream valleys. Early migrants arriving and resident birds starting to nest. Good chance for beginners to learn bird ID and habits before the Spring migration brings in a profusion (= confusion) of later migrants. Facilities available. 8 AM (2-3 hours.) Meet in parking lot. Leaders John Harris, jaybee.harris@gmail.com or 240-755-0183 and Robin Todd, tnesman@aol.com or 410-491-5333.

■ Patuxent/PG. Regularly scheduled walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at the gate at end of Lemon Br Rd, off Laurel-Bowie Rd just n of the MARC line. No reservations needed. 7:30 AM. For more info, contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, April 2

■ Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. We will walk on paved and grassy/rocky trails looking for common birds of the park. Listening and learning bird calls will be highlighted. During nesting season, participants can assist in checking bluebird boxes. Though participants can leave at any time, the walk will conclude after two hours with a review and count of birds observed. Canceled for rain. If weather is iffy or for questions, contact leader. 8 AM (half day.) Meet in the first parking lot on left after the entry hut (free entry.) Contact Stacy Epperson at stac.epperson@gmail.com or 410-987-7533.

■ Talbot. Urban Birding. We will again (our 9th year) bird the variety of habitats around the Target Shopping Ctr and the newly developed shopping areas nearby in search of early spring migrants. Every year we have seen our FOY Rough-winged Swallows on this trip. We will scan fields, open water, tidal guts, wood margins and

hedgerows for early arriving migrants as well as wintering birds. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leader Terry Allen, 410-829-5840 or pattyallen10@hotmail.com. Breakfast Hostess: Patty Allen, pattyallen10@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, April 4

MEETING. **Baltimore.** *Ian Nagoski* on "Ecstatic & Wingless." Music researcher Ian Nagoski will discuss his audio documentary project on early 20th century birdsong and its relationship to human performance. Learn the story of the first recordings of cage birds and the practice of bird imitation, a field that produced amazing and eccentric celebrities during the 1910s-20s. Rarely heard in recent years, bird imitation was recorded commercially on every continent by 1925 and possibly predates music or language in human history. 7 PM. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore.

Wednesday, April 5

■ Baltimore. First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Birds in Thailand" by *Dave Harvey*. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Ctr in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Speaker TBA. 7-8:30 PM. Senior Center, Cecil Co Admin Bldg, 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton. For more information, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 6

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Alan Bromberg* on "Ethiopia: Birding in an Ancient Land." 7-9 PM. Location TBD. Contact Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369.

■ Patuxent/PG. Luther Goldman Birding Trail. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Hts. For beginners and experts. Bird checklist available. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@verizon.net, for more info.

Saturday, April 8

■ Harford. Rocks SP. Spend the morning on the beautiful trails of this Deer Creek woodland in search of early spring migrants and woodland birds. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Ranger Station parking lot on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd. Leader Mark Magnani, 410-838-1778 or mwmagnani@gmail.com.

■ Howard. Alpha Ridge Landfill. Moderate walking over hills and fields of the landfill. Vesper sparrow and other field birds possible. Meadowlarks, kestrels and other open country birds expected. Rarities possible. Facilities at Alpha Ridge Park. 7:45 AM (half- day). Meet at Alpha Ridge Park to carpool to landfill. Carpooling required. Contact Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com or 410-772-8424.

■ Kent. Turner's Creek and Sassafras NRMA. Explore a diversity of habitats from wood margins and small ponds to open fields, looking for spring migrants and nesting herons and eagles. 8 AM. Half day, bring snacks. Meet at Dollar General off Philosopher's Terrace in Chestertown. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ YMOS. Lower Eastern Shore Early Migrant Search. We'll bird Nassawango Creek, Elliott Island Rd, and Blackwater NWR. 7 AM-6 PM. Meet at Sailwinds Park in Cambridge. More detailed information will be sent out in advance of the trip. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip. Then we will use email to coordinate actual departure times and locations, trip needs, carpooling, and additional information.

Sunday, April 9

■ Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. David Gillum will lead this monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8 AM (half day.) Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Cylburn Easy Walk. Casual spring walk for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. 8:30 AM. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot. Leader Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com.

■ Montgomery. Hughes Hollow and Vicinity. We will explore the wetlands of Hughes Hollow and Sycamore Landing. Species to be expected include Red-headed Woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, and many other marsh dwellers. A chance for several warblers including Prothonotary. 7 AM (half day.) Meet at Hughes Hollow parking lot in the McKee-Beshers WMA. Reservations are not required. For more information, contact leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517 (cell).

■ Talbot. Tuckahoe and Adkins Arboretum. A pleasant morning at Caroline County's premier State Park makes for a relaxing Sunday morning. We will search different areas of the wooded sections, both near the Creek and upland adjacent the fields. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leader Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376 or dpalmermd59@gmail.com.

Tuesday, April 11

MEETING. Allegany/Garrett. Bill and Debbie Devlin will speak on "Peru: The Birds of Machu Picchu." 7 PM. Compton Hall, Room TBA, Frostburg State University.

MEETING. **Kent.** *Mark Abdy* will speak on "Botswana." Light refreshments follow the program. 7:30 PM. Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off E Campus Ave, Chestertown.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PG.** "Native Bees of Maryland" presented by *Gene Scarpulla*. Gene is an Associate at the Bee Inventory and Monitoring Laboratory at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center where he surveys and identifies native bees and wasps. In 2009, he conducted a yearlong survey of the bees on Hart-Miller Island in the Chesapeake Bay to increase our knowledge of Maryland's bees. Gene will give a brief overview of the history of Hart-Miller Island, describe his yearlong survey, discuss general bee biology and identification (bees vs. wasps vs. flies [mimics]), and show the amazing diversity of Maryland's bees. The formal program begins at 7:30 PM, but doors open at 7 for informal conversation, refreshments, and exchange of birding news. College Park Airport Operations Bldg.

Thursday, April 13

■ **Harford.** Birds and Blooms Walk at Ladew Topiary Gardens. A morning stroll to look for spring migrants while enjoying the beautiful 22 acres of gardens. Dennis Kirkwood will assist with bird ID. Pre-registration is preferred. 7:30 AM. Meet in the main parking lot. Leader Rachel Hebert, hebert.rachel2@gmail.com or 410-557-9570, ext. 261.

MEETING. **Howard.** "Madagascar," by *Gail Mackiernan*. The world's fourth largest island, a "naturalist's dream," has unique fauna and flora that evolved during millions of years of isolation. Gail will talk about her 2015 trip which explored this ancient land and recorded many of the island's most sought-after species. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Saturday, April 15

■ **Anne Arundel.** Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. Please join us for a spring visit to one of Anne Arundel County's best birding locations. First-time leader and one of the club's youngest members, Max Ramey will lead us through the wooded trail system, stopping at observation decks and blinds overlooking marshes along the Patuxent River. We should see an abundance of spring migrants in their breeding colors and perhaps the elusive Red-headed Woodpecker. Trails are hard-packed with moderate inclines. A scope is recommended. 8 AM (half day.) Meet at Parole P&R. Contact Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Saturday Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day.) Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Wendy Alexander, 410-788-4080 or drbeanes@verizon.net.

■ **Carroll.** Krimgold Park. A new park at 5355 Woodbine Rd in Sykesville. Looking for whatever we can find. 8 AM. Half day. For more details, contact Bob Ringler at 410-303-2792.

■ **Harford.** Harford Glen. This preserve offers great opportunities for good spring birding. The woodland trails, wetlands and some open meadow entice a wide variety of birds. We will begin the tour with sightings from the parking lot, then proceed to survey the triple riparian habitats of Atkisson Reservoir, the faster flowing Winter's Run, and the tributary, Plumtree Run. 8 AM. Meet at the Glen, 502 W Wheel Rd. Leaders Ruth Bergstrom, ruthb22@yahoo.com or 443-752-1967 and Dave Larkin, 410-509-8319 or larkin3001@comcast.net.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regularly scheduled walk at Governor Bridge Park in conjunction with Prince Georges Audubon Society. 7:30 AM. Meet inside the gate at the Park on Gov Br Rd, 1 mile from Rt

301. No reservations needed. For more info, contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, April 16 (Easter Sunday)

■ **Anne Arundel.** Fort Smallwood Park. Liz and Dominic Nucifora will lead the 1.5 mile walk through this relatively flat waterfront park. In addition to our year-round residents and some lingering winter ducks, we hope to see a variety of hawks, swallows and some early warblers. \$6 entry fee. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet at Pasadena Dollar General. Contact Dominic Nucifora, 443-534-4891 or d.nucifora@yahoo.com.

■ **Talbot.** East of Rt 50 in search of arriving northbound transient species in forested bottomlands in close proximity to Easton. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Leader Jan Reese, 410-745-2875 or reesejan@gmail.com.

Monday, April 17

MEETING. **Talbot.** (NOTE date change) *Jonathan White* will be speaking about his book "Tides: The Science and Spirit of the Ocean." 7 PM. Bayleigh Chase (aka William Hill Manor) Auditorium, 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton.

Wednesday, April 19

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "Tracking the Humpback Whale" with *Adam Frankl*. Noted whale expert Adam Frankl's research concentrates on the effects of human-produced sounds on marine life, and the natural function marine wildlife signals, including whale song. He will discuss the natural history of the humpback whale, and the 15+year effort at tracking the abundance and distribution of whales off the west coast of Hawaii Island. 7 PM. Blue Heron Room, Quiet Waters Park. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Montgomery.** *Phil Davis* on "The Azores and Madeira." In 2016, Phil and Barbara led a group of birders on a 17-day grand tour of the Azores and Madeira

Islands. The tour took them to seven different islands where they targeted 12 endemic bird species and 24 endemic subspecies. A key tour objective was to observe the endemic subspecies and put them "in the bank" since genetic analysis continues to dominate avian taxonomy and endemic island subspecies have high potential for future splits. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting starts at 8 PM. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

Thursday, April 20

MEETING. **Caroline.** Program TBA. 7:30 PM, Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Luther Goldman Birding Trail. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Hts. For beginners and experts. Bird checklist available. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@verizon.net, for more info.

Saturday, April 22

■ **Anne Arundel.** Bacon Ridge Natural Area. This trip will be part of the annual Walk for the Woods. Bacon Ridge is normally a limited-access area, but is opened once a year for a variety of activities to the public. Please join us as we search for spring migrants in a seldom-explored environment. Paths can be muddy and there are several steep inclines. 8 AM (half day.) Enter the Crownsville Hospital complex and follow signs directing you to the parking area. Meet at the registration area. Contact Kevin Smith at 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

■ **Frederick.** Hughes Hollow Birds, Wildflowers and Butterflies. A great trip for beginners as well as experienced birders. Contact leader Pat Caro, 240-651-5651, for time and directions.

■ **Harford.** Feathers and Flowers at Susquehanna SP. An ideal time to enjoy emerging wildflowers, early migrant songbirds, and lingering winter visitors. 8

AM. Meet at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill. Leaders are Colleen Webster, 410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu, Eric Vangrin, evangrin@msn.com or 443-417-7219, and Josh Emm.

■ **Kent.** Beginner's Bird Walk, Eastern Neck NWR. In honor of Earth Day, we'll spend 2 to 3 hours exploring several of the Refuge's trails and overlooks, looking for a variety of migrants, from raptors to warblers. Noon. Meet at the Tundra Swan Boardwalk. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

* **Montgomery.** Blue Mash Nature Trail/Oaks Landfill. Interesting walk at these adjacent and surprisingly birdy sites. Waterproof boots helpful at Blue Mash, but not needed at the landfill. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet at Zion Rd parking lot. Call leader for reservations and directions. Trip is limited to 8-10 participants. Leader Mark England, 240-207-3132 or 240-375-4500 (cell).

■ **Tri-county.** Nassawango Preserve for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, migrating passerines and newly arrived summer residents. Bring lunch, drinks and snacks. 7:30 AM. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot. For more information, contact leaders Betty Pitney, 410-543-1853, or Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

■ **Washington.** Antietam National Battlefield. Birding along the Final Attack Trail. Co-sponsored with Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 8 AM. Meet at the Burnside Bridge parking lot. Register with the trip leader at sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465.

Sunday, April 23

■ **Anne Arundel.** Pocomoke River Canoe and Kayak Trip. Expect to observe about 40 species during this leisurely paddle. This will be an all-day trip, so bring a

lunch. An extra kayak is available or they can be rented, but must be reserved ahead of the trip. Please contact leader if interested. 6:30 AM (all day.) Meet at Bay 50 Parking Lot. There will be a 2.5 hour drive to Snow Hill on the Eastern Shore. We will park at the livery, where restrooms are located. Contact Nick Nicholson, 410-353-3329 or nickinchrist@netzero.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Cylburn Easy Walk. Casual spring walk for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. 8:30 AM. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot. Leader TBD.

■ **Montgomery.** Hugh Mahanes Presidents' Walk at Hughes Hollow. Participation of all former Chapter Presidents is encouraged, and everyone is welcome. This is a wonderful chance for newer birders to be in the field with "old hands" who enjoy sharing what they know. With a variety of habitats, Hughes Hollow is always interesting in spring. We will look for water birds on the move and early songbird migrants. Possible birds include Purple Finches, Blue-winged Teal, swallows, and maybe even an American Bittern. 7 AM (half day.) Meet at the Hughes Hollow parking lot. Reservations required. For more information, directions, and reservations contact leader Clive Harris, clivegharris@yahoo.com.

■ **Talbot.** North Tara Road (Chesapeake Forest), Dorchester Co including Brookview and Hurlock Areas at the beginning of the spring migration. Expect to see many returning warblers, tanagers, flycatchers, vireos & always the unexpected. Early departure 6:30 AM from Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Charles Hopkins, 443-786-6332 or chopkins54@goeaston.net.

■ **YMOS.** Western Shore Migrant Search and preparation for World Series of Birding. Daybreak at Susquehanna SP for warblers and early migrants, possible

Cerulean Warbler. Swan Harbor for King Rail, Sora, Least Bittern. Patapsco Valley SP for warblers. Several stops along the C&O Canal, ending at McKee-Beshers WMA. 5:45 AM-5:30 PM. Meet at Havre de Grace McDonald's on Rt 40. More detailed information will be sent out in advance of the trip. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip. Then we will use email to coordinate actual departure times and locations, trip needs, carpooling, and additional information.

Monday, April 24

MEETING. Tri-county. "Piping Plovers on Assateague Island", presented by an Assateague National Seashore staff member. 7 PM. *MAC Education Center*, 909 Progress Circle (off Snow Hill Rd), Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net for more information.

Tuesday, April 25

■ Washington. Mills Park. 8 AM. Meet at the Park lot accessed from Belview Avenue. Contact Anna Hutzell at 301-797-8454 or amp8185@aol.com.

MEETING. Washington. "The Mount Aetna Nature Center and Its Collections" with Floyd Murdoch. Meeting begins at 7 PM at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt. Aetna Rd, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 for details.

Wednesday, April 26

■ Washington. Kiwanis Park. Co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. 8 AM. Meet at the Kiwanis Park lot located at 371 Dynasty Dr. Contact the trip leader at sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465.

Thursday, April 27

■ Baltimore. Papermill Flats and Ashland NCR Trail. Trip to two locations for marsh birds, lingering waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds. Bring spotting telescope if you have one. 8 AM. Meet at NCR Trail parking

lot, north side of Ashland/Paper Mill Road. Leaders Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net, and Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 29

■ Allegany/Garrett. Elk Ridge Native Plant Preserve and New Germany SP. We will be looking for early warblers. 7 AM. Carpool from Cumberland will meet at Ollie's parking lot. 8 AM. Meet at New Germany SP parking lot across from the Lake House. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ Anne Arundel. Fort McHenry and Masonville Cove. We should see a wide variety of birds during the spring migration, many of them in their breeding colors. Scopes are recommended. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet at Millersville Commuter Lot. We will carpool to Fort McHenry to meet Wendy in the small lot to the left and outside of the park's front gate. Contact leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 or drbeans@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Liberty Dam Trail. We will walk about a mile of level trail along the Patapsco River up to the dam for recently arrived spring breeding warblers and other songbirds. Yellow-throated Warbler possible, Worm-eating, Black-and-White, and Parula Warblers on territory. Long shot for Prothonotary Warbler. Yellow-throated Vireos, Barred Owls, Pileated Woodpecker and other woodland birds are resident. Rough-winged Swallows resident at the dam, Spotted Sandpiper possible. Wear boots or footwear appropriate for muddy or rocky, unpaved trail. 7:30 AM. Directions: from Baltimore Beltway, take exit 18 Liberty Rd NW 5 miles, turn left on Marriottsville Rd (before reaching the water tower), go 4 miles SW, passing quarry entrances and gun club entrances, go around the bend to the right, and then watch for a driveway with mailboxes on your right. Go up that driveway until it reaches a sharp right turn and park in the unpaved parking area on the left. Leaders Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete6314webb@gmail.com, and Debbie

Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net.

■ Carroll. Susquehanna SP. Spring migration along the Susquehanna River. All nesting warblers will also be present. 8 AM, up to all day. Meet at the parking lot on Stafford Rd immediately west of Lapidum Rd. Leader Bob Ringler, 410-303-2792.

■ Frederick. Native Plant Sale of the Audubon Society of Central MD, held at the Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Rd, Mt. Airy. Please support this sale at one of our favorite and most productive birding hot spots. More information can be found at www.centralmdaudubon.org.

■ Talbot. Smith Island excursion. Travel across Tangier Sound and make stops on Smith Island at the villages of Ewell and Tylerton to bird and take in the sights. Always a nice mix of waterbirds, herons, egrets, Brown Pelicans and a few migrant songbirds. Arrangements through Delmarva Birding Weekend. Cost to be determined, includes crab cake lunch. Depart Somer's Cove Marina in Crisfield at 8 AM (all-day trip.) Directions and more information will follow via our listserv. Leader Terry Allen, 410-829-5840 or pattyallen10@hotmail.com.

■ Washington. Cushwa Basin. Enjoy a morning of birding along the C&O Canal. 8 AM. Meet at Cushwa Basin parking lot in Williamsport. Contact the trip leader at sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465 for additional information.

■ Washington. Catoctin Creek Nature Ctr. 10 AM. Meet at the visitor's center, 2929 Sumantown Rd, Middletown. Contact leader Jim Speicher at jugornought@gmail.com to register.

Sunday, April 30

FUNDRAISER/CONCERT. Anne Arundel. Anne Arundel Bird Club Fundraiser/Concert with Dan Haas. Birder and singer/songwriter Dan Haas will once again generously

donate a concert for a night of food, fun and music. If you've birded with Dan, you know how entertaining and expert he is, and his musical talent equals his birding skills! Dan is a popular performer at many venues and special events. Check out his website: www.DanHaas.com. \$20 per person. RSVP by April 27, there are 60 seats available. Please consider bringing a drink, hors d'oeuvres or dessert to share. 6 PM. Home of Barbara Johnson and Barry Wells. Contact Barbara at 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com (please write "AABC Concert" in subject line.)

■ Baltimore. Chimney Swifts at Dusk. Join the BBC Swift Watch Team as Chimney Swifts enter a favorite chimney at sunset. Due to the fact that the swifts routinely change migration roosting chimneys, this year's spring site will be posted on the BBC website (<http://baltimorebirdclub.org/>) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/382565775136349/members/) on Friday, Apr 28. 7:45-8:30 PM. Come a half hour early if the weather is cloudy or gray. Cancelled if raining. Leader Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

■ Frederick. Thompson WMA (near Front Royal, VA). Warblers and wildflowers! Reservations and permit required. Contact leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690, for time and directions.

■ Harford. Jerusalem Mill. Visit this appealing stretch of the Little Gunpowder River marking Harford County's western border. 7 AM. Meet at the parking lot by the mill on Jerusalem Rd. Leader Mark Johnson, marksjohnson@gmail.com or 410-692-5978.

■ Montgomery. Occoquan Bay NWR. Explore the diverse habitats in this one-square mile refuge at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers in Woodbridge, VA. A variety of raptors and migratory warblers, vireos, thrushes and flycatchers should be present, and rails

and bitterns are possibilities. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet at the parking lot in the center of the refuge. Reservations required. Limit 25. Leaders Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com, and Gerry Hawkins, 571-277-8406 or maineusa@comcast.net.

■ Talbot. Hope House Farm. This property provides a mixed habitat of forest, forest edge, fields and tidal waterfront. We will be looking for new spring arrivals including thrush species, flycatchers and orioles. Numerous sparrows should be present, and the property provides nesting sites for a full range of woodpeckers. Lingering waterfowl may be seen on the broad reach of water that can be viewed. Raptors may also be around, especially nesting Eagles and Osprey. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leaders Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002 or wbell2@washcoll.edu and Les Roslund, 410-763-8169.

Tuesday, May 2

■ Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. Early migrant warblers, vireos, etc. 7 AM. Meet at Picnic Area #18, one-half mile below the Nature Ctr on Ridge Rd. Reservations required. Call the leader for more information or specific directions. Leader Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

Wednesday, May 3

■ Baltimore. First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** Don't miss this meeting. Help elect new officers and plan for the club's future. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Ctr in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

Wednesday-Sunday, May 3-7

■ YMOS. World Series of Birding. Depart Wed AM for 3 days of scouting. We'll

participate in the Big Day on Saturday, trying to find as many species as we can in 24 hours. We'll return Sunday after the Awards Brunch. The Birdathon fundraising will hopefully pay for registration, motel costs, the Awards Brunch, and most of the food costs. For more information, see the ymos.org website.

Thursday, May 4

■ Baltimore. Papermill Flats and Ashland NCR Trail. Trip to two locations for marsh birds, lingering waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds. Bring spotting telescope if you have one. 8 AM. Meet at NCR Trail parking lot, north side of Ashland/Paper Mill Road. Leaders Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net, and Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Frederick.** David Smith will tell us all about the wonders of Kestrels. 7-9 PM. Frederick HS Heritage Room. Contact Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369.



YMOS Birdathon Returns: An Annual Rite of Spring March 18-19 2017

Here they go again! A cadre of aspiring young birders in the Youth Program of the Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS) is already preparing to haunt the shorelines, marshes, woods and fields of the Eastern Shore in quest of at least 100 bird species. The annual YMOS Birdathon is the principal fund raiser to underwrite expenses for participation in the World Series of Birding in May. The youth invite you to help by pledging \$0.25, \$0.50, or \$1.00 per species seen over their two days in the field.

Despite the caliber of the participants, the success of the Birdathon is never a sure thing. March weather can bring rain, fog, and cold. Many wintering waterfowl will

have departed, while most migrant songbirds are still far South of the Chesapeake region. To make matters worse, the youngsters construct a 100-species Must-See List in advance and need to record two species for each one missed on that list. Overcoming these challenges requires planning and decision-making for the species quest, and 90% of the participants must see or hear each species identified. In addition to honing identification skills, the Birdathon promotes a high level of collaboration and sharing that is a hallmark of the YMOS.

As many as four YMOS teams will represent the MOS at the World Series of Birding. Last May, "YMOS Live and Let Fly" won Youth Division B (grades 6-8) with 154 species; "YMOS Mighty Merlins" won Youth Division C (grades 9-12) with a whopping 190 species, tying the winning adult team! This year, plans are afoot for one YMOS team to compete as Carbon Free Kids by birding the Big Day without the assistance of motorized vehicles.

You can pledge any time prior to the Birdathon by emailing George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com) or Wayne Bell (wbell2@washcoll.edu). Those who pledge will receive an advance copy of the Must-See list. After the Birdathon, you will receive a report of all species identified, and the amount owed based on the net species seen after any penalty deductions for Must See misses.

Thank you in advance for your interest, and for your encouragement of this remarkable group of youngsters who represent our investment in the future of birding as a lifelong endeavor.

--George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell

POSTMASTER: TIME-DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE EXPEDITE!

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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos, or ideas that would be of interest to other birders.

Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by MAR 25, 2017 for the MAY/JUNE 2017 issue.

Illustrations pp. 1,5 ©M. Suzanne Probst

MOS Chapter Web Sites (to be consulted for the most up-to-date trip/meeting info)

Allegany/Garrett: westernmdbirding.com/

Anne Arundel: aabirdclub.org/

Baltimore: baltimorebirdclub.org/

Caroline: carolinebirdclubmos.blogspot.com/

Carroll: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/carroll.html

Cecil: cecilbirds.org/

Frederick: frederickbirdclub.org/

Harford: harfordbirdclub.org/

Howard: howardbirds.org/

Kent: kentcounty.com/recreation/birding/birding-club

Montgomery: montgomerybirdclub.org/

Patuxent/PG: pgaudubon.org/

Talbot: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/talbot.html

Tri-County (Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset): tricountybirdclub.weebly.com/

Washington: washingtoncountybirdclub.webs.com/

Y MOS: ymos.org/

Education Working Group Matrix

Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators	Responsible Parties
• Establish Physical Presence in Chapters	• Each chapter to identify a home base (nature center, public library) where public meetings can be held and membership materials can be distributed	• Compilation of a list of possible candidates and establish physical presence	• Individual Chapters
• Resolve MOS Committee Overlap	• Create an Education Committee encompassing: - Youth activities - Education of the general public - Member education - Education grants/scholarships • Development of canned presentations	• Creation of an Education Committee structure and responsibilities	• MOS Youth, Education, and Scholarship Groups
• Increase Focus on Families	• Offer slower-paced Family Friendly Nature Walks beginning mid-morning, held in locations with ample comfort facilities, and led by "trained" guides able to instruct and accommodate a wide range of needs/questions	• Number/quality of walks held	• Individual Chapters
	• Hold a statewide Family Youth Birding Day with both an indoor and outdoor program of activities serving a range of interests and abilities (including advanced youth in instructional roles) – possibly by 2018	• Successful event held	• YMOS/Education Committee
• Establish Introductory Programs for Beginners	• Develop "canned" PowerPoint programs to share with all chapters for use with school groups, local citizens, senior centers, civic groups, e.g., 1. Basic Bird Taxonomy and Visual Identification 2. Birding by Ear 3. Birds and Habitat 4. Local Conservation concerns	• Production of programs and distribution to all chapters	• YMOS/Education Committee and chapters
• Retool Scholarship Program	• Revive Student/Educator Summer Program. • Institute an Education Grant Program (from the old Scholarship fund) providing a pool of finance from which chapters/educators/students may apply for any of the following: - Student program scholarship - Educator program scholarship - Innovative chapter education program • Educator Classroom Grant to support activity, project, Green School application	• Applicant would need to submit a follow-up report at the end of project and be willing to either write an article for the Yellowthroat or do a Chapter or MOS presentation.	• YMOS/Education Committee
• Identify Local Resource Personnel	• Develop a list of MOS members who can assist educators/civic groups in: - Making presentations - Helping educators implement service learning and Green School projects and STEM programs	• Local Chapters	• Compilation of a list of resource personnel by each chapter
• Develop Online Citizen Education Presence	• Develop and introduce an education section on the MOS Website to provide citizens/youth with information on topics including: - Links to bird identification - Chapter Resource Personnel - Getting Started in Bird watching - Basic Bird watching Equipment - Attracting/Feeding Birds	• Completion of website and monitoring of times pages visited	• YMOS/Education Committee
• Form Partnerships with Other Environmental/Conservation Groups and other Civic Groups	• Connect/partner with - Local Parks and Recreation agencies - Girl/Boy Scouts (merit badges and Eagle Scout projects) - Delaware/VA/WV/PA bird groups - Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE)	• Extent of established partnerships and their effectiveness.	• Local Chapters
• Increase Diversity in both Youth and Adult Groups (incomplete)	• Connect/partner with groups serving more diverse populations: i.e. - Wounded Warriors - Native American group • Survey other groups for strategies for reaching minority groups.	• Monitor progress in increasing diversity.	• Local Chapters

Outreach and Communications Working Group.

Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform broader audiences of the aims of the MOS, what it is attempting to accomplish and appreciate why MOS is relevant. • Help increase and diversify membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate Chapter members about MOS through occasional in-person chapter meetings by MOS Board and utilizing MOS email server notices membership. • Revamp Yellowthroat contents with emphasis on MOS and its activities bringing value of its chapters. • Public dissemination by establishing relationships with major area newspapers (Sun, Post, Express) as well as local papers to post events and activities. • More digital exposure via MOS blogs/twitter ("tweet tweet") accounts to draw in younger people. • Provide lectures and exhibits throughout community—such as state-run events, nature centers, etc. • Work with State and County-level Tourism departments. • Rethink MOS conference program to be more interactive and interesting to a wider audience • Partnering by reaching out at local level to the wider nature community on issues of concern to all. This can be local governments, parks, libraries, senior centers, hunting and fishing organization, nature centers, etc. • Time for another survey of membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify an "outreach" coordinator to help implement actions at MOS level and chapter levels • Development and implementation of an outreach and communications • MOS production of "canned" lectures for Chapter to use in outreach efforts. • Finalize development of a one-stop credit card payment method for all chapters to improve relationship with MOS • Implementation of enhanced content MOS conference to attracts a larger audience • Develop and implement a survey to MOS and MD birding members to obtain an update of MOS member concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach & Communications Chairperson and Committee • MOS Board members • Chapters • IT person/webmasters • MOS Conference chair • Yellowthroat editor

Action Plan Matrix for the Advocacy and Lobbying Group.

Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators	Responsibilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance/build capacity for advocacy and lobbying in favor of bird conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help enhance/build capacity for advocacy in developmental/land use issues through gathering/collating information and making it accessible to interested parties and decision-makers; • Attend local and state-wide meetings concerning planning and zoning in ecologically-sensitive areas • Educate planning and zoning authorities concerning declining species based upon the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas and other relevant data; • Lobby elected officials concerning legislation, regulations and other actions likely to affect for the conservation of bird populations and their habitats. • Ally with like-minded organizations, to expand numbers and more effectively lobby. To include neighboring states. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOS Conservation Committee to coordinate information gathering and synthesis concerning planning and zoning in ecologically-sensitive areas; • MOS chapters to educate planning and zoning authorities concerning declining bird species and their habitats; and, • MOS and chapters to lobby elected officials concerning legislation, regulations, etc., likely to affect for the conservation of bird populations and their habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOS Conservation Committee to coordinate information gathering and synthesis concerning planning and zoning in ecologically-sensitive areas; • MOS chapters to educate planning and zoning authorities concerning declining bird species and their habitats; and, • MOS and chapters to lobby elected officials concerning legislation, regulations, etc., likely to affect for the conservation of bird populations and their habitats.

Funding Action Plan Matrix

Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators	Responsible party(s)	Indicative Budget (include likely sources)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate funds to prudently meet present and future MOS mission, goals and obligations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify currently unfunded projects requiring substantial financial support on a limited-FY or recurring basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of projects identified and implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Directors • Standing Committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. \$100K in current FY and FY1718
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide whether to "adopt" MD BCP as an MOS project, or evolve into an independent, self-supported 501(c)3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress on the decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Directors • MD BCP Steering Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among membership to include MOS as a beneficiary in their estate plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft of Yellowthroat notice • Date of initial publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build knowledge base on fundamental principles of estate planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of training (through Maryland Nonprofits) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Chair • Treasurer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$300 one-time
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek donations/grants from individuals, private foundations and corporations to support MOS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft templates of proposals • Number of proposals submitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct cost-benefit analysis of MOS participation in workplace charitable giving campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net projected revenue realized through campaign participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4,500 annually for audit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify inefficiencies and methods to improve current fiscal practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate need for restructuring of membership dues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue from life memberships received FY1718 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess pros and cons of changing from fixed to rolling membership year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member satisfaction survey results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,000 annually for membership software
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop standardized electronic means for simultaneous payment of dues at state and chapter level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft of membership form • Member satisfaction survey results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webmaster • Finance Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine maximum sustainable "cap percentage" used by Budget Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-year change in portfolio value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment Committee • Budget Committee • Board of Directors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate need for MOS sanctuaries on a case-by-case basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological value of sanctuaries • Annual maintenance costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Directors • Sanctuary Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform MOS members about the organization's financial resources and operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create "fiscal road show" for chapter meetings that explains MOS (1) assets; (2) investment portfolio; (3) operating expenses and income; and (4) budget process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of chapters visited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer • Chapter Presidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a

Bird Study Action Plan Matrix

Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators	Responsible Party(s)	Indicative Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support research on birds and bird habitats in Maryland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the research grants program Consider increasing the amount of money allocated annually to support research. Consider ways of creating a perpetually updated mailing list of MD researchers at area institutions to inform them about the availability of MOS funds Better clarify what the role of MOS is in supporting the needs of the MD research community (e.g., DNR, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before indicators can be determined, we need to figure out first what the fundamental MOS organizational objectives are and then determine how providing research grants (and how much) can achieve those objectives. Thus, we need to know, to what end is MOS investing in research? e.g., will we offer more money because: 1) we aim to increase MOS's recognition as a serious player in the MD ornithology community; and/or, 2) support to graduate students is fundamental to MOS's identity; and/or, 3) we believe support for research leads to conservation. Degree to which MOS is interfacing with the MD Bird Conservation Partnership (BCP), the central hub through which research and conservation needs are communicated in MD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOS Research Committee (relatively small annual grants) MOS Board (large grants, typically in support of collaborative research programs) Yet to be determined: MOS/BCP or committee? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current research Committee annual budgeted amount is \$3,000 for question-based research grants and \$2,000 for in-support-of-monitoring grants.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage study, recording, and observation of birdlife in MD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regular state level training opportunities for the membership to learn best-practices relating to bird counting (e.g., how data are ultimately used, counting methods, training, etc.) and field craft (e.g., how to lead a Xmas Count sector, etc.) to ensure that MOS provides its members the opportunity to develop expertise needed to maintain MOS's activities. Provide regular state level training opportunities for the membership to further their understanding and use of advanced and emerging technology (e.g., eBird, GPS, phone apps, etc.) Explore, design and create a state level means of actively communicating work-power/expertise needs of local MOS supported efforts (e.g., Xmas count circles needing sector leads, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As determined by <i>specific</i> needs and MOS' fundamental objectives: 1) the number and types of training sessions offered per year; and, 2) how well those fit with the current needs of MOS at any given time. Number of needs conveyed vs. those filled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yet to be determined: MOS/MD BCP or committee? Education committee purview(?) but with scope planning, timing, and content determined by joint task committee(?) with representative(s) from education, research, and MD BCP A person or committee that fosters information transfer and facilitates efforts vertically within MOS (i.e., chapter to state, state to chapter) and horizontally (chapter to chapter)? (This is a need expressed by other theme groups as well.) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote collation and processing of data from bird counts, monitoring and inventorying, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently being pursued by the BCP. (There are many assumptions that need to be addressed, thus, it is a venture that MD BCP is pursuing cautiously). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MD BCP is in the process of drawing these up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> instead of working backwards (i.e., considering the research committee and rationalizing backwards about what it can do for us), 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOS' current financial support of BCP is supporting this activity.

Conservation Action Plan Matrix

Objectives	Actions	Performance Indicators	Responsible Party(s)	Indicative Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Help support and implement the MD Bird Conservation Partnership (MD BCP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MOS has recently begun providing substantial financial backing to support this emerging effort • Educate the MOS membership about the value and role of MD BCP and relationship to MOS. • Actively institutionalize participation in MD BCP efforts (similar to how MOS institutionalized participation in the Atlas). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of continued support ■ Appearance of: 1) descriptive pieces in intra-MOS communications (e.g., Yellowthroat, MOS website, chapter talks, etc.) introducing the role of MD BCP and its relationship to MOS; and. 2) degree of incorporation of ongoing MD BCP activities and milestones into the MOS intra-communication materials. ■ Degree to which BCP is actively assisted by MOS in pooling qualified personnel and expertise to address issues (e.g., mobilizing to fill an essential data gap, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A • Task committee comprised of MD BCP coordinator, MOS officers? • Yet to be determined: MOS/MD BCP 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with national and state ornithological organizations and conservation agencies and private bodies devoted to the protection of birdlife/wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the primary purpose served by the MD BCP. • Provide more explicit support to the MD Biodiversity Database Project (BDP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree to which MOS and BCP work together in forging effective partnerships. • Degree to which MOS assists BDP Coordinators in locating and securing needed expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire and maintain a system of sanctuaries to encourage the conservation of birdlife and habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a new cultural paradigm within MOS wherein sanctuaries are viewed as a means of accomplishing the organization's fundamental objectives. • Perform an assessment of the total value, both tangible (monetary, habitat, etc.) and non-tangible (recreation, etc.) each MOS sanctuary against MOS's fundamental objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree to which the information permits MOS to objectively develop alternative strategies for using the sanctuaries, whether that be preserving, selling, or donating them, to best achieve the organization's fundamental objective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sanctuaries Committee along with MOS Executive Board? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Note that Eric Vangrin, Harford member, has volunteered his services to perform wetland delineation and habitat assessments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support habitat/backyard improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs oriented towards this objective are already performed successfully by National Wildlife, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with National Wildlife, etc. to support this activity. 		

The Maryland Yellowthroat

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President's Corner

Barbara Johnson



Sam Droege contributed this photo of Chan (in NC sweater) compiling a mid-70's Christmas bird count at Holly's Restaurant in Grasonville. Sam is on Chan's left. Also pictured are Ed Salo, Bob Ringler, Woody Martin, Chan's son George Robbins, and Bill Murphy. Sam thinks Ben Pagac took the picture.

The many tributes written to Dr. Chandler S. Robbins in the wake of his passing on March 20, 2017 describe his groundbreaking research, his innovative engagement of citizens in science, his vast contributions to conservation, and the extraordinary passion and genius he applied to birding--all part of his international renown. In the MOS microcosm, countless members also reaped the benefits of his generosity, with his tremendous capacity and willingness to teach, mentor and inspire.

Perhaps none were so profoundly affected by Chan than the young birders who came under his wing. Three people who encountered Chan as youngsters, and each of whom matured into an accomplished scientist and expert birder, kindly shared

with me memories of Chan's impact on their lives.

David Bridge:

I discovered MOS and Chan Robbins in 1958, maybe through his book, The Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia. I began submitting my bird sightings to Chan, which he used in the quarterly MOS Seasonal Reports. Chan took me on my first Christmas Bird Count in 1958 when I was 17 (I slept at his house the night before, so we could go owling at 4AM).

I went with Chan to the Ocean City Operation Recovery station in Sept. 1959, and after that I applied for and received a bird-banding permit. It is very possible that I received a strong recommendation from Chan that I am still completely unaware of.

(continued on p.2)

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I wrote the Maryland nest summary for **Maryland Birdlife** in 1959, and I prepared the annual summary for a few years after that. My bird banding experience landed me a temporary job at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in the summer of 1960. I worked off and on there until 1964, sometimes with Chan. Then I was accepted for a position with the Bird Division of the National Museum of Natural History, and I stayed with the Smithsonian until I retired in Dec. 2006.

When Chan was working on the *Golden guide to Birds of North America*, I prepared the range maps under his direction, and under contract to Golden Press. Arthur Singer came to the museum.

with his original drawings which I helped review, and as I remember, he made a few changes. I also went to New York City to review and approve the artist renderings of the range maps. So by the time I was 25 I had a lot of experience, and made many contacts with good people. It is easy for me to look back and say that I owe much of my career to the encouragement of Chan

Dave worked as a Museum Technician, Museum Specialist, and Computer Specialist/Manager at the Smithsonian. He now collaborates with the Smithsonian Institution Archives on the "History of Computing at the Smithsonian Institution" project, and helps Phil Davis with MD/DC Records research. Dave continues to actively bird and is currently working with Chan's family on the distribution of Chan's large personal library.

Bruce Beehler:

In 1962, my brother and I attended the MOS Convention in Ocean City, based at the ancient Hastings Miramar Hotel. Chan was the star at the convention, of course. There was an evening bird ID contest, in which slides of birds were thrown up on the screen and people shouted out the identification. I think Chan ran that operation, but I'm not sure. The highlight of the weekend was going with Chan to Pocomoke Swamp and watching as he cupped his hands around his ears and called out the songs of the incredible morning chorus--Worm-eating and Swainson's

Warblers, among others. We were in awe of his auditory capacities.

In the mid-1960s I attended the MOS Junior Nature Camp at Woodbine, Maryland (it was a weekend-long affair). Chan attended and set up mist-nets. I can recall him removing a Screech Owl from the net and we junior naturalists were entranced by his dexterity and were of course amazed to see the little owl up close. Chan was there for the kids and he was gentle and approachable and wonderful to learn from.

In 1968, my mother and I joined Chan on an MOS winter birding weekend to the Atlantic shore. Chan led the trip, of course. We successfully chased down Ipswich Sparrows on Cape Henlopen, among other fun birding highlights. Chan was a wonderfully accessible birding leader. By that time, the *Golden Guide* has been published, and he instantly became a God to all of us. I believe this was a Montgomery County Chapter trip, and Bobby Hahn President of that club. Chan insisted we dine at the rather old fashioned "City Lunch" in Ocean City.

Bruce works as an ornithologist and research associate of the Bird Division of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, and is currently writing his 11th book, *The Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia*, (sponsored by MOS) with photographer Middleton Evans.

Sam Droege:

When I was a kid, I was obsessed with birds, but was isolated from the naturalist community, living in Hyattsville. I got my bird learning from the library, which had two copies of the *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* by Stewart and Robbins. I had one copy out all the time. At some point I decided I wanted to buy a copy and my father told me to call the U.S. Government Printing Office to see if they had any still for sale, but they did not. Later someone told me that they thought that Robbins lived in the area. So I figured he had some copies in his basement and would sell me one. I also thought, hmmm, where would a famous ornithologist live...Washington D.C. of course. I looked in the DC phone book and there he was: Chandler S. Robbins. I wrote him a letter

asking for a copy. It turned out this was not THE Chandler S. Robbins, but a remote cousin, who passed my letter on to Chan in Laurel. Chan did not have copies, but his wife Eleanor invited me to come to the bird club...and all of a sudden I had found my clan.

Sam is a wildlife biologist at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Like Chan, Sam develops citizen-based monitoring programs, including Bioblitz, Frogwatch USA, and the North American Amphibian Monitoring Project. His expertise includes phenology, native bees and strawbale construction.

May we all support and emulate what our most venerated member did so well. His mentoring and teaching lives on through our chapters and YMOS, our organization's vibrant youth division. The many kids for whom YMOS and its volunteers provide guidance will be our next generation of naturalists, researchers, innovators, and conservationists--legacies of Chandler Robbins!



Can You Help?

MOS is developing the capability to email members, but we've hit a snag. A sizable percentage of members didn't open a recent email. It's possible, even likely, the message disappeared into a spam folder, one marked 'promotions', or something similar. Please check the multitude of 'folders' your browser provides and search out that message. It was sent from me on March 22nd and titled "*Join friends and fellow bird enthusiasts*". Mark it 'not junk' or 'subscribe'. Your browser will then accept further MOS mailings. These mailings will occur only infrequently, and be about items or news of widespread importance to the Society.

It'll take a minute or two, but be worth it in the end. Thanks!

Maryanne Dolan, Secretary



Maryland Birdlife Needs Your Submittals

Maryland Birdlife needs your submittals for publication. So far, Associate Editor Mark Johnson and I have had a sufficient number of articles to produce each issue. However, we have no buffer stash of articles for future issues, and consistent submission of manuscripts is essential for timely publication. This means that each issue survives on its own without anything available for the future. When I became Editor of the journal, I reached out to many prospective authors. Several responded that they had potential articles that they would be submitting. I am asking these prospective authors, and others as well, to please draft and submit your articles to help us keep *Maryland Birdlife* timely and published regularly throughout the year. We encourage all of you who may have potential accounts of merit to spend some time at your keyboard and put your accounts into an article. This is truly a team effort and regular submissions are critical to keeping *Maryland Birdlife* a respected publication that helps expand our knowledge about Maryland's birds. Thanks in advance.

Gene Scarpulla – Editor of *Maryland Birdlife* (ejscarp@comcast.net)

New Horseshoe Crab-Shorebird Video

The annual migrations of horseshoe crabs and shorebirds in Delaware Bay is one of the animal wonders of the world. Shorebirds including Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, and Semipalmated Sandpipers arrive in Delaware Bay each spring just as horseshoe crabs are laying their fat rich eggs. While many people know about this phenomenon and visit each year for their fix of shorebirds and horseshoe crabs, many others stumble over it accidentally. Many of the people we run into don't know what's going on. The members of the Delaware Shorebird Project (run by Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife) have wanted to tell this story for a number of years in a way that's accessible to a general audience.

That dream is now a reality! The Delaware Shorebird Project and collaborators are pleased to announce the release of a new short filming documenting this phenomenon: *Feast on the Beach: The Delaware Bay Horseshoe Crab Shorebird Connection*. The film explains the fascinating convergence of events that makes these migrations so special. The scientists (including citizen scientists) studying the shorebirds and horseshoe crabs are also featured. The film can be viewed online at <http://www.delmnh.org/feast-on-the-beach/>.

We're really lucky to have such an amazing phenomenon happening right in our back yard. We hope this film will spur people to get out and experience it for themselves—make your plans now to visit in May! Our one request of birders and photographers—please don't disturb feeding shorebirds. They're on a tight schedule and disturbance can delay their departure for the Arctic or reduce their weight gain. And while you're on the beach take a moment or two and flip some horseshoe crabs—you could be saving a life.

Jean L. Woods, Ph.D., Curator of Birds,
Delaware Museum of Natural History



The Future of Ornithology By Colin Rees, Anne Arundel

The early years of this century pose a variety of challenges to imagining the future of ornithology in Maryland. In part this is because of the duality of the birding community. On the one hand, there are those for whom the identification and listing of species is likely to be their driving interest. On the other, there are those inclined to broaden their interest in bird behavior and express their concern for the future of the natural environment. The former group's activities may range from participating in popular bird counts to supporting bird watching societies. The latter may also help promote new recovery techniques to study such matters as bird migration and work on conservation initiatives and the impacts of climate change. While most birdwatchers pursue their activities for recreational or social reasons, unlike ornithologists (who engage in the study of birds using more scientific methods), there are many who collect data to map large-scale migratory movements, assess population trends and help determine the impacts of pollution and disturbance or loss of the natural environment.

Doubtless, future ornithological studies will focus on using advances in technology designed to acquire more data for insight into an ever-expanding array of topics, ranging from comparative molecular genetics and behavior to population ecology and conservation. In particular, evolutionary studies will prove especially important encouraging, as they do, a more theoretical approach and fostering the experimental testing of hypotheses, greater quantification, and more sophisticated statistical analyses and mathematical modeling (Birkhead *et al.*, 2014).

State bird societies, such as the MOS, will continue to play a critical role in fostering interest and concern for birds and their habitats, producing newsletters and annual reports, maintaining websites, running meetings and field trips, and using social media to inform the community about birdlife. Considerable efforts will continue to be devoted to more targeted survey work

and supporting the maintenance of reserves and acquiring land for conservation. Partnerships will intensify and underpin many urgent investigations and studies which, with deft maneuvering, may effectively constrain the further erosion of the natural landscape wrought by economic development. They may also take actions to enhance national and state avian and other wildlife diversity at policy, legal and project levels.

Organizations, such as the Cornell Laboratory for Ornithology, are anticipated to sustain the much-needed bridge between the informed amateur and professional ornithologist. Surveys and studies conducted by bird societies and others will help determine significant changes from year to year resulting from climate change, disease, predation, habitat loss or other factors and develop conservation strategies for species, habitats and ecosystems on a sound basis.

Other organizations, such as Audubon, the American Bird Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy, will attempt to staunch the decline of the natural world and support its recovery by ensuring that the richest wildlife sites are protected and from which wildlife can return to the wider landscape. Rather than focusing upon individual habitat patches, efforts will concentrate on large, naturally-functioning landscapes (such as a river catchment), often encompassing several reserves and other important wildlife areas. Such efforts in favor of protecting and connecting large landscapes require a multi-disciplinary approach, working with partners drawn from agriculturalists, landowners and local communities. They will also make exceptional long-term demands on all parties, calling on ingenuity and commitment.

The conservation movement may eventually persuade national and local government agencies to effectively accommodate the impacts of climate change, formally adopt the practice of conserving large-scale landscapes and seascapes, and acknowledge the limits of growth. Such an approach would put the natural environment at the heart of how decisions are made about health, housing and other development, education, economic growth, flood resilience

and community interests. It would ensure, for instance, that local and national 'ecological networks' are mapped out and created to expand and support wildlife habitats.

All the above initiatives are urgent as the start of this century finds birdwatchers and ornithologists facing an unprecedented loss of bird species and their habitats. Erosion or fragmentation of natural habitats, breeding failures due to pesticides or predators, endangered flyways and climate change threaten birdlife on every scale. To sustain needed actions over the longer term, efforts to address these issues will require sustained integration of disciplines and institutions and political will.

In the succeeding articles, an attempt will be made to envision how the evolution of bird watching and ornithology in this century might deploy various skills, tools and techniques to the benefit of bird populations and their habitats.



Go Birding With A Purpose IN MARYLAND'S IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

By Marion Clement and David Curson

Between 2007 and 2012 more than 100 MOS members and other birders rallied to the cause of identifying Important Bird Areas (IBAs), by conducting "Bird Blitz" surveys at candidate sites across Maryland. Now it is time to rally again, and go birding with a purpose. Audubon Maryland-DC and the recently established Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MCBP) are joining forces in 2017 to monitor bird populations at IBAs. Important Bird Areas represent the most essential sites for birds across the state – 43 IBAs have been identified in Maryland because they support one or more of three categories of vulnerable birds: at-risk species, species assemblages that depend

upon a particular habitat type, exceptional concentrations of birds.

Monitoring birds at IBAs can help bird conservation in two main ways. Firstly, data on the numbers and locations of at-risk species can help site managers more effectively cater to the habitat needs of those species, and when monitoring is repeated over time, revealing local population trends, managers can be alerted to issues with declining populations while there is still time to act. Secondly, counts of birds at IBAs can build a case for protecting an area from threats like poorly-planned development. It is not just the bird data per se that lead to land protection – the fact that local citizens care enough about birds and their habitats to go out and monitor bird populations sends a powerful message to community leaders when land use decisions are being made.

To generate high-quality data of value to conservation planning, we are taking a targeted approach, consulting with Maryland Department of Natural Resources and other experts to prioritize IBAs where there are specific conservation needs and opportunities. At the time of writing we are busy selecting priority sites and designing survey routes.

We are starting the monitoring program this spring, with a focus on breeding birds, and we need the help of devoted volunteers. Monitoring involves:

- 1) Walking a designated survey route during the morning, before 9:30am, and completing ten point counts. These are counts of all birds heard or seen from a fixed point.
- 2) Identifying and counting all individuals of all bird species seen or heard at designated survey points for five minutes.
- 3) Recording the data on a provided datasheet for later submission online.
- 4) Conducting this survey twice during the breeding season (late May – late June).

Audubon and MBCP will provide volunteer training in May and assign survey routes based on volunteer preferences and availability. Most survey routes will be laid out along well-worn trails, but for the more

adventurous some routes go off-trail and will require navigation with a hand-held GPS.

We need your help! Your birding expertise will be tremendously helpful in providing the ornithological data necessary to plan appropriate conservation measures for Important Bird Areas in Maryland. It is a small time commitment with a big conservation impact!

Looking to get involved? Contact Marion Clement, Director of the Maryland Bird Conservation Initiative, director@marylandbirds.org, 410.573.4560 and David Curson, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Maryland-DC, dcurson@audubon.org.

For more information on Maryland's Important Bird Areas, visit <http://md.audubon.org/conservation/important-bird-areas>



Volunteers Needed for Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Project

By Marcia Watson, Patuxent Bird Club

As has been reported previously in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, MOS has partnered with other organizations to support a new endeavor, the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP; see <https://marylandbirds.org>). MBCP is embarking on a number of projects, including a Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program that is in need of volunteers to conduct some simple studies in the field. This is your opportunity to put your birding skills to use in helping to gather information on eagle nesting in Maryland.

The MBCP program is a new effort to monitor Bald Eagle nests throughout Maryland and the District of Columbia. State-funded surveys of Maryland's Bald Eagle population were discontinued in 2005. Since then, continuous threats from pollution (to eagles and their food sources), increased frequency of violent storms (loss of eagle nests), coastal development (increased

disturbance near nest sites and loss of habitat), and degraded fish populations in various tidal watersheds (food sources for eagles) all contribute to the compelling need for renewed monitoring of Bald Eagles in our state.

The program asks volunteers to monitor one, two, or three active Bald Eagle nests, each to be visited on three separate days spread out over the breeding season (March through July). A short training session is also required.

By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, many eagles will already be rearing hatchlings, but please consider signing up and contributing information for the latter part of the season. There are nearly 600 known Bald Eagle nests in Maryland, and many other nests we don't yet know about, but only 81 monitors have volunteered to date, and the program needs many more volunteer nest monitors. Volunteers are especially needed on the Eastern Shore where the bulk of eagle nests are located, specifically: Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, and Somerset Counties. There are also a number of nests along the Potomac River in Charles County.

You can read more about the program at <https://marylandbirds.org/bald-eagle-nest-monitoring/>, including the specifics on how the monitoring is conducted. You may also access a volunteer registration form there. Questions can be directed to Chris Eberly, MBCP Science Coordinator at mdeaglenests@gmail.com or (540) 270-5248.



About the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) was launched in 2014 to build the foundation of a collaborative, sustained effort to conserve Maryland birds and their habitat. The goal of MBCP is to unite government, public, and private sectors to reduce current threats to our birds. To undertake this complex goal, MBCP will facilitate partnerships on land

conservation, research, data gathering and collation, citizen-science monitoring, and education.

The MBCP is supported by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD-DNR) through the federal funds from the Pittman-Robertson Act, and matched by the Maryland Ornithological Society. The US Fish & Wildlife Service also provides in-kind support by the donation of office space and resources. The Partnership is made up of member organizations from government agencies and nonprofits, and led by Executive Director Marion Clement, the Steering Committee, and several thematic committees. As of March 2017, the Steering Committee includes: Gwen Brewer, Program Manager of Science Programs at MD-DNR; Dave Brinker, Central Regional Ecologist at MD-DNR; Bill Harvey, Game Bird Section Leader at MD-DNR; Dan Murphy, Chief of Division of Habitat Conservation at U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Colin Rees, MOS Chair of Long-Range Planning; David Curson, Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon MD-DC; Tom Strikwerda, Past President of Maryland Ornithological Society; Eric Sprague, Director of Forest Conservation at American Forests; Jeff Shenot, Board of Directors for Friends of Jug Bay; David Ziolkowski, Wildlife Biologist at U.S. Geological Surveys; Frode Jacobsen, past MBCP coordinator and Cornell Postdoctoral Fellow; and Chris Eberly, MBCP Science Coordinator.

Current partners in the MBCP include:



Late MOS members Ron Gutberlet and Sam Dyke Honored

Authors James C. Lendermer and David Ray recently published their finding of two new species of lichen in *The Bryologist*, published by the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, Inc.* These two new species, *Arthonia samdykeana* and *Arthonia gutberletiana*, were named in honor of Sam Dyke and Ron Gutberlet, in recognition of their many contributions in the conservation and citizen science community. Ray, an ecologist with The Nature Conservancy, described the discovery and ecology of these two species, which grow on pines in the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain, at "Valuing Bird Biodiversity Using Citizen Science" a workshop at the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury University, on March 10, 2017.

A career forester, Samuel H. Dyke, had a long and influential life as a conservationist. He was a superb naturalist and birder, well regarded among Maryland birders for his extensive knowledge of bird life on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He served as the President of the Tri-County Bird Club from 1998 until his death in 2014. Sam helped broker significant land deals that allowed The Nature Conservancy to accomplish watershed-scale conservation and biodiversity protection objectives on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, centered on Nassawango Creek, for which he received the organization's Conservation Achievement Award. Sam's love of birds was also displayed through his 40-year involvement with the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, where he served as board chair and curator.

Well known among birders and MOS members across the state, Ronald L. Gutberlet Jr. was an associate professor of biology at Salisbury University, where his studies centered on the natural history of birds, reptiles and amphibians on the Eastern Shore. Ron served as the Tri-County chapter's Vice President from 2010 until 2014 and as President from 2014 until his death in 2015. Ron was a strong advocate for Citizen Science, getting people outdoors and sparking an interest in the natural world. Despite his life and career being cut short by illness, Ron's enthusiasm for nature in all its

forms, his unfailing optimism and ability to bring consensus among disparate factions had a substantial impact on his students, fellow faculty members, other birders and the regional conservation community.

----Ellen Lawler

* "Two new pinicolous *Arthonia* (Arthoniaceae; Arthoniomycetes) from the Delmarva Peninsula of the Atlantic Coastal Plain in eastern North America." James C. Lendermer and David Ray, *The Bryologist*, 120(1):11-18, 2017.



MOS to Launch Campaign to Promote Awareness of MOS Sanctuaries

By Marcia Watson, Patuxent Bird Club

Here's a little quiz:

- 1) How many bird sanctuaries are owned by MOS?
 - a. Two
 - b. Nine
 - c. Fifteen
 - d. Twenty-three
- 2) Where are the MOS sanctuaries located?
 - a. One in each of the 23 counties.
 - b. One in each county that has an active MOS chapter (15).
 - c. All are on the Eastern Shore.
 - d. Montgomery, Baltimore, and Howard Counties.
 - e. Garrett, Frederick, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Talbot, Caroline, and Somerset Counties.
 - f.
- 3) When did MOS acquire its first sanctuary?
 - a. 1945.
 - b. 1962.
 - c. 1990.
 - d. 2000.
 - e. 2008.

4) When did MOS acquire its latest addition to the sanctuary list?

- 1945.
- 1962.
- 1990.
- 2000.
- 2008.

5) What are the sizes of the largest and smallest MOS sanctuaries?

- All are about 100 acres each.
- The largest is 150 acres and the smallest is 8 acres.
- The largest is 1,570 acres and the smallest is 8 acres.
- The largest is 15,700 acres and the smallest is 80 acres.

6) True or false. The MOS sanctuaries are open to MOS members and the public free of charge.

(Answers: 1: b; 2: e; 3: b; 4: e; 5: c; 6: True)

Did you find yourself scratching your head over these questions, and surprised by one or two or more of the correct answers? If so, you're not alone. At the MOS retreat on January 28, 2017, the topic of the MOS sanctuaries came up repeatedly, in just about all of the discussion groups. It was apparent from the discussions that many members in attendance had had little exposure to the MOS sanctuaries. In fact, one concrete proposal that came out of the retreat was the idea to develop a PowerPoint presentation to showcase the sanctuaries. This PowerPoint presentation, with a provided script, would be made available to all chapters to use at their meetings.

Knowing that a lot of material is available in the files of Sanctuary Committee Chair Brent Byers and former Chair Dotty Mumford, in articles published in *Maryland Birdlife*, on the MOS website, and in other sources, I volunteered to create the PowerPoint presentation. This proposal was approved by the MOS Executive Committee, and I aim to have the PowerPoint ready to distribute to chapters sometime this fall. (See the sidebar for a specific request for Sanctuary photos)

There are some additional ideas that MOS will be implementing to promote

awareness of the sanctuaries: putting a set of photos of the sanctuaries on the MOS website and Facebook page; working with chapters to promote sanctuaries in their areas; featuring the sanctuaries on the MD/DC Birding Guide website, currently under development; and developing a challenge event to encourage birders to get out there and visit the sanctuaries.

Why should we care if MOS members and other people know about the sanctuaries? The sanctuaries, which total over 2,100 acres spread across Maryland, represent a considerable investment in time and money spent over the last 55 years. More importantly, the sanctuaries are a physical manifestation of MOS's belief in providing habitat for birds. The habitats present in the sanctuaries are a microcosm of the habitats present in our state. With cuts in funding for environmental programs at the state and federal levels, MOS is facing critical decisions as to how to manage the sanctuaries in order to provide the greatest benefit to birds. The sanctuaries belong to all of us as MOS members. In order for the MOS membership to make informed decisions about the sanctuaries, we need a shared level of knowledge about the Sanctuaries. This is what is driving our campaign to bring knowledge of the sanctuaries to MOS members and beyond, to the general public. Stay tuned to learn more about these plans, which will be implemented over the coming year. Meanwhile, get out there and visit a Sanctuary near you!

The current sanctuaries, in descending order by size, are listed in the table below.

To learn more about the MOS sanctuaries, see the MOS website at <http://www.mdbirds.org/sanctuary/sancindex.html> (the website does not yet include the newest sanctuary, the 82-acre Piscataway Sanctuary in Prince George's County, acquired as a donation in 2008.)
----Marcia Watson, Patuxent Bird Club

Sanctuary Name	County	Size	Date Acquired
Irish Grove	Somerset	1,570 acres	1968, 1972, 1993 (separate parcels)
Carey Run	Garrett	162 acres	1962, 1972 (separate parcels)
Mill Creek	Talbot	156 acres	1964, 1965 (separate parcels)
Carolyn W. Wilson	Garrett	86 acres	1988
Piscataway	Prince George's	82 acres	2008
Myrtle Simon Pelot	Caroline	50 acres	1972
Marengo Woods	Talbot	50 acres	1990
Seymour B. Cooper	Frederick	14 acres	1978
Mandares Creek	Anne Arundel	8 acres	1975

Your Photos Needed!

For the campaign to promote awareness of the sanctuaries, Marcia Watson is seeking photos taken at the MOS sanctuaries. Photos desired include those that show trails (if any), landscapes and habitats at the sanctuaries, and those that show people birding, doing research, or working at the sanctuaries. Photos will be accepted in any format – digital, prints, negatives, or slides. Please email digital photos as attachments to Marcia at marshwren50@comcast.net. Other formats can be sent by postal mail to

Marcia Watson
14207 Lakerun Ct
Bowie, MD 20720

Please include a note stating whether you would like the photos returned. Also include the photographer's name, location and approximate date of each photo, if known. Marcia would appreciate receiving your photos by May 31, 2017. Thank you!



Potential Projects for Conservation of Bird Populations and their Habitats

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) is in the process of identifying and partnering with organizations and individuals helping conserve birds and their habitats. The list below represents opportunities for MOS chapters to adopt or tailor to their particular needs and interests

The Anne Arundel Bird Club has donated \$500 for Audubon MD-DC and the MBCP to join forces with Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary to carry out a Bird Blitz for the Jug Bay Important Bird Area (IBA) in 2017. The purpose of the Blitz is to determine whether forestlands surrounding Jug Bay IBA should be added to the IBA site.

You can take action at the community, county or state level through the following examples:

- Conduct a habitat (wetlands, forested wetlands, mature forest, successional forest, meadows, pine and sand barrens, open water, grassland, vernal pools, etc) delineation and/or change analysis using GIS

- Collect baseline data on bird species' use of different habitats, indicating those species that are rare, endangered, invasive, etc.
- Such baseline data could continue to be collected through the years to obtain long-term trends for bird habitat use and abundance. Monitoring could be limited to most important habitats and bird species of concern.
- Study population dynamics of bird species of interest (migrants, rare, invasive).
- Compile information (develop a map) about potential distribution ranges changes of bird species of interest in this region due to climate change or other factors.
- Study bird species using the forest understory - forest layer impacted by deer browsing.
- Study native plant gardens: assess bird species use of plants as food, shelter, other.
- Produce summaries of existing data: winter water bird survey, census', etc.
- Forest restoration work: invasive plant removal and native plant replacement; document usage.
- Maintain bird-feeding stations: clean, fill, seed pick-ups, and document species use.
- Assess meadow habitats: document species use, research on means to encourage species such as meadowlark, kestrel, grasshopper sparrow, etc.
- Enhance "Secretive Marsh Bird" Surveys: work by canoe/kayak, evenings, and document nests found.
- Study fall bobolink migration: short, rigorous study tracking daily movements.
- Create bird databases: species can easily be sorted by habitat, seasons, type, rarity, etc.
- Maintain, monitor and Facebook bluebird boxes, invite families to participate.
- Maintain and monitor purple martin houses.
- Create nests display and an accompanying education program.

Anyone interested in taking action should contact Marion Clement, Executive Director,

Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. (director@marylandbirds.org; or, 410.573.4560). USF&WS, Chesapeake Bay Field Office, 177 Admiral Cochrane Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401.

See also: www.marylandbirds.org

---Colin Rees, Anne Arundel Bird Club



CECIL COUNTY

Once again the Cecil Bird Club (CBC) participated in the Moore's Chapel United Methodist Church's annual Cabin Fever Event on March 11th. The club has set up their informational table all but one of the nine years this event has been taking place. The event showcases outdoor recreational activities and opportunities throughout Cecil County. Local organizations such as the Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area, Plumpton Park Zoo and the Bohemia and the Sassafras River Associations were in attendance as well. This year Club members *Dawn Turner* and *Edward Cooney* manned the table.

Club President *Maryanne Dolan* negotiated with Elk Neck State Park to have the CBC install and monitor Bluebird nest boxes at the site of the club's annual hawk watch at Turkey Point in the park. Club member *Parke John* has donated the boxes, which will be installed later in March so as to be ready for use this spring. This becomes

the second area where club members monitor nest boxes. *Ken Drier* has been keeping an eye on the boxes at the Woodlawn Reserve near Port Deposit for the past four years. This is turning into one of the premier Cecil County birding spots. At one time it was a Bridgestone Tire super fund site.

Currently CBC President *Maryanne Dolan* is on her first tour of Texas and the Rio Grande Valley area inspecting the Mexican border around McAllen and Brownsville. Santa Ana, Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuges and Bentsen State Park were a few of the birding sites on her itinerary. We wish her all the best birding in this wonderful area.

Ken and Kimberleigh Drier will be journeying to Myanmar the end of March. We look forward to hearing about their adventures!

Ken Drier

HARFORD COUNTY

At the March meeting, Harford County Bird Club (HBC) presented its annual awards. Nine "Certificates of Recognition" were presented to 4 outstanding members, 2 highly-acclaimed associates, and 3 resident friends of HBC. In all, the 2016 awardees distinguished themselves in varied services to our HBC mission by (1) promoting recognition, and enjoyment of Harford County birdlife (2) encouraging exploration and thereby conservation of our county's diverse, species-rich habitats, and (3) fostering community interaction in HBC programs. To that end, five birding categories were considered, and in 2 of the categories, multiple awardees were found equally deserving.

Birder of the Year-Tom Gibson, was recognized for 9-years of continuous, outstanding service as organizational chairman, champion, and tour de force of the HBC field trip programs that offer weekly outings to MD's varied, species-rich habitats.

Rookie of the Year - Rachel Hebert, for developing 2 new HBC field trips at Ladew Topiary Gardens: "Birds & Blooms" in April, and "Butterflies & Blooms" in September; and for promoting an HBC-operated educational station during Ladew's avian youth-day.

Volunteer of the Year - Elaine Beery, was recognized for her entrepreneurial ingenuity in developing and maintaining a fiscally productive raffle that has assured 8 years of balanced financial growth and stability; and reliable management of HBC finances.

Volunteer of the Year - Amanda Koss, for selfless investment of her time and effort. She mastered all the technical, taxonomic, and recording skills needed to operate, and preserve the educational bird-banding program at the Harford Glen Environmental Center.

Lister of the Year - Matt Hafner, a world class birder, and past president of the HBC, logged an impressive 300 species (92%) of the 326 total species known and listed as Harford County Birds in August of 2016.

Bird of the Year - Brian & Mary Dulaney-James, granted HBC members access to the Chesapeake Bay via their "Old Bay Farm" property (Havre de Grace, MD) to view a rare Tufted Duck, and a Tufted x Ring-Necked Duck hybrid (found by Josh Em 29 Feb '16).

Bird of the Year - Jean Baynes, granted access to HBC birders to view 4 Baird's Sandpipers (common in N.E. Siberia & American Arctic) that settled on the shores of Chesapeake Bay near Jean's residence in Havre de Grace (found by Josh Em, 22 Aug. 2016).

Bird of the Year - Rob & Lisa Ann Fanning, expert birders from Moganville, N.J., spied a rare Black-throated Gray Warbler in Tydings Park, Havre de Grace, MD on Sat. 26 Nov. 2016. The bird lingered, and was seen by other birders for several weeks.

2017 Honorary HBC Membership - Josh Em, for adding the following rare, first-time birds to the list of Harford County species: Tufted Duck, Baird's Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, and Painted Bunting. *Josh* was our first time recipient of this inaugural award. *Robert Werrlein*



Photo: Tom Gibson with Harford President Bob Werrlein

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Club member and photographer *Scott Young* has begun hosting photography tips on his website beginning with several offerings by local expert *Bob Augustine*. Scott writes, "Bob has revealed some of his technical secrets about *Range Finding with a Digital Camera, Using Saccadic Eye Movements to Better See Flying Birds, and Shakeless Scope Photos*". "You can find them at: <http://www.wsyacy.com/Augustine.html>. And I'm happy to host birding insights from other Maryland birders, too."

In February, *Gail Mackiernan, Barry Cooper* and two British friends took a 3-week cruise from Valparaiso, Chile to Buenos Aires, Argentina via Antarctica. They saw lots of birds but also faced a few unanticipated challenges, including drought, heat, gale-force winds, fog, plane delays and defunct car rental offices. *Gail* writes: "We arrived in Chile in the midst of a heat wave and drought, which was fueling serious wildfires to the south of Santiago. The plane was very late, leaving no time for our planned visit into the Andes, so we just went to our hotel and crashed. The next morning we found our target wetland dry as a bone and virtually birdless. However, once aboard Holland America's *Zeendam*, things improved. Sailing south in the Humboldt Current provided great views of seabirds, including four species of albatross (Royal, Salvin's, Black-browed and Buller's) and petrels including Juan Fernandez, Westland and DeFillippe's. Reaching Puerto Montt, we found the Avis

office—with our pre-paid car-out of business! No chance to try for our target, Black-throated Huet-huet (an elusive giant tapaculo of Chile's southern beech forest) at its most reliable site. Seeing 20 or so of the recently described Pincoya Storm-petrel as the ship left port was a welcome compensation, however. And two port stops later, in Chacabuco, we found a trail into the forest, and—at the last moment—a Huet-huet responded to playback, and came in almost too close to focus on! We were also successful with the almost-mythical Hooded Grebe near Punta Arenas, a single bird summering with scores of common Silvery Grebes.

At Cape Horn, unusually quiet conditions meant 1000's of Black-browed Albatross on the water—an amazing sight! The Drake Passage was quite calm, great for the cruisers, but disappointing for sea birders who want those winds and waves! Still, we added Cape and Giant Petrel, Southern Fulmar and both Wandering and Gray-headed Albatross on our way south. Antarctica is always stunning, but this year there was less sea ice than our previous two visits—and fewer birds as well. We were pleased with our multiple views of the beautiful Light-mantled Albatross and Snow Petrel, but puzzled at the lack of usually abundant prions. Thankfully, penguins were abundant, and we added Gentoo, Adelie and Chinstrap to our growing list. We also enjoyed great views of Orca, Fin, Sei, Minke and Humpback whales and a number of species of dolphin. Unfortunately, the ship was forced to leave Antarctica early to avoid a serious storm, and we bypassed Deception Island, with its huge seabird colonies. Then two days of fog frustrated our birding, clearing just as we reached the Falklands. Here we had a chance to see King Penguin at the largest colony outside South Georgia, as well as other birds such as Falklands Skua and Ruddy-headed Goose.

Puerto Madryn, in Patagonia, lived up to its reputation for wind-try birding in 45 mph gusts! —but we did see our target Chubut Steamer-duck and Elegant Crested Tinamou. This leg of the cruise also provided our first Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross and Great Shearwaters, all the way from their

breeding grounds on Tristan da Cunha. At our last two port stops, Montevideo and Buenos Aires, we had arranged for local guides. Our day in Uruguay was hot and sunny but we had good birding in this pleasant, small country. After disembarking the *Zeendam* in Buenos Aires, we stayed three days in the huge and vibrant city. One day we traveled to the vast wetlands near the Rio Paraña—it was hot as Hades, but we were gobsmacked by flocks of hundreds of Southern Screamers as well as goodies such as Maguiri Stork, White Monjita and multiple Nacunda Nightjars resting in a weedy pasture. Our final day to the Otamendi Reserve capped a wonderful but challenging trip, adding White Woodpecker, Scarlet-headed Blackbird and the elusive Curve-billed Reedhaunter, along with many other birds. All in all, despite the setbacks, a great experience – we saw over 30 species of tubenoses, and about 230 other species both at sea and on land.” ----*Chris Wright*



Photos: Gentoo Penguin (above) and Cape Petrel

TALBOT COUNTY

George, Harry & Liz Armistead attended the 20th ANNUAL SPACE COAST BIRDING & WILDLIFE FESTIVAL, January 25-30, 2017, Titusville, Florida. Sporting more than 900 registrants, this is a huge festival, with 44 field trips (most repeated several times), 93 field trip leaders, 78 exhibitors, 54 photography & digiscoping workshops, 10 other workshops, 32 sponsors, and 41 classroom presentations. Much of these focused on international interests, especially Latin America, as well as on topics other than birds. The festival is beautifully-organized, the handouts helpful and clear, and for every event participants are given a form with which to rate and appraise its quality. Most field trips have 2-3 leaders. There were three keynote speakers.

George represented Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures at their booth, led field trips, and gave a presentation. George has been to this festival twice previously, Liz and I were simply tourists, but profited from George's advice. I had not been to this area since 1971, when there were still plenty of Dusky Seaside Sparrows, now extinct.

Much of this region consists of vast areas of dense forest dominated by Saw Palmettos, Cabbage Palms, and Slash Pines. The forests have rank growths of bromeliads all over the tree trunks and branches. There's also beautiful coastal prairie with various marsh grasses, such as *Juncus*, studded with isolated groves of Cabbage Palm, making for an exotic, tropical atmosphere. Out on Merritt Island, with its 140,000 acre Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR), there are huge, shallow tidal bays, brackish impoundments, and extensive Black Mangrove habitat as well as the palm forests. Farther out there is the sea and beach. In the distance looms the great NASA complex, various towers, and the giant Vehicle Assembly Building. Much of coastal Merritt Island consists of Canaveral National Seashore. This is a marvelous, harmonious blend of three great federal agencies.

The glamour of the area is its colorful wading birds: Roseate Spoonbills, White Ibis, Reddish Egrets, 3 other egret species, Great Blue Herons in stunning nuptial plumage,

some already on nests, as well as big groups of avocets, hundreds of pintails, thousands of coots for comic relief, hundreds of gallinules, Bald Eagles, Wood Storks, and lots of Glossy Ibis. One highlight was our observation of 15 West Indian manatees at Haulover Canal. A few days later they'd left due to a cold front. On most days we saw alligators but missed seeing bobcats and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Titusville is certainly all built up, but in the middle of town are many well-patronized Osprey nesting platforms.

Favorite spots included the Viera Wetlands where white pelicans, ibises, various herons, limpkins, and luckily a Caracara, Least and American bitterns were also found. Most all of these are at point blank range, busily gobbling up fish, and crayfish. Good dirt roads encircle Viera. You don't even have to leave the car for great views in this photographers' paradise. A few Sandhill Cranes stalk the grasslands to the north of the dikes, calling. On our two trips to Viera we saw Mottled Ducks, 1,500 robins, 60 snipe, and a famous Smooth-billed Ani.

Another astonishing area is the vast TM Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area - Broadmoor Unit. Here we saw 69 species, including: Snail Kite, Gray-headed Swamphen Purple Gallinule, Common Gallinule, coot, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Anhinga, Glossy Ibis, Limpkin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Black Skimmer, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, White-eyed Vireo, Boat-tailed Grackle, Stilt Sandpiper, Ring-necked Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Roseate Spoonbill (at their nesting colony), and White Pelican.

On our last day we hit many areas. At the Blue Heron Water Reclamation Plant we saw a pair of early Purple Martins. On the South edge of Titusville were Lesser Scaup, well offshore. At MINWR we saw a Gulf Fritillary and a Buckeye and our first trip avocets (hundreds), Marbled Godwits, and Gadwalls, as well as a male Painted Bunting at the Visitor Center feeders, and a sow hog and her two piglets. A trip up north to Turtle Mound, a massive native American oyster shell pile 40 feet high, we saw a few Gannets. From this prominence Harry Robinson saw 2,226 Pomarine Jaegers on November 9, 1992. We visited nearby Ponce de Leon Inlet, where Smyrna Dunes Park is a

good place to look for gopher tortoises. It was nice just to be at these places even though we didn't see many birds.

This area has 3 large lagoons, Indian River Lagoon, Mosquito Lagoon, and the Banana River. Much of Banana River is a manatee sanctuary where power boats are forbidden and is well within the Kennedy Space Center. There is a resident population of Bottle-nosed Dolphins that spend their entire lives without ever leaving Indian River Lagoon. We saw them several times.

On another note, George has recently given talks at the Philadelphia Flower Show, the West Chester (PA) Bird Club, the Free Library of Philadelphia, and the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. Later in 2017 he will be going to Panama and England as well as the southwest Pacific to some islands of Melanesia. ----Harry Armistead

TRI-COUNTY

Long-time Tri-County member *Linda Cashman*, with husband Greg, recently moved to Fort Collins, Colorado. Over the years, Linda served as club Vice-President and Director, was a field observer in both Maryland Breeding Bird Atlases, participated in Christmas and May Counts and assisted with planning and hosting MOS conferences held in Salisbury. We wish Linda and Greg all the best, including lots of great Colorado birds.

On Mar. 10, a dozen Tri-County members attended "Valuing Bird Diversity using Citizen Science" at the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury. In addition to the announcement of two lichen species being named for *Ron Gutberlet* and *Sam Dyke* (elsewhere in this issue), speakers included American Birding Association president, Jeff Gordon and Salisbury University Assistant Professor of Economics and Finance, Sonya Kolstoe, who spoke about her research into the role of bird diversity on the economic impact of birding. Many also attended the eBird workshop that afternoon. The club used this as a chance for outreach, with the club's display, spring schedule and membership information on-hand. *Ellen Lawler*

Some Good Craic

Larry and Jean Fry write: "We took a trip to northern and eastern Ireland with Field Guides in November, 2016. The leaders were Terry and Karen McEneany. The trip was called "Birds, Traditional Music, and Pubs," but is better known as "Birds by Day, Pubs by Night." Terry and Karen have been leading this trip for about seven years. They do a spring trip in May and a fall trip in November in alternate years. Terry has relatives in Ireland and actually has a dual citizenship. They really know the culture, locations of historic sites, and the best pubs for music. We flew into Dublin a couple of days early so that we could do a few things on our own, such as see the Book of Kells and the Long Room at Trinity College and the National Irish Museum of Archaeology, which was especially impressive.

"We had 90+ species on the trip. Since we had traveled in the British Isles twice before and also in Ireland in 2015 in the spring, life birds were a challenge. We did, however, see Pink-footed Goose, Barnacle Goose, and Eurasian Sparrowhawk for the first time. Other waterfowl were: Common Shelduck, Greylag Goose, Tufted Duck, plus lots of the species seen here in the states. At one RSPB location, we saw a flock of about 30 Eurasian Wigeon. Alas, a lone American Wigeon flew in to join them, which certainly clarified the distinctions between them. Somewhere in County Monaghan on the way to Belfast, we saw a flock of over 50 Whooper Swans which landed in a pasture. Serendipity! European Shag, Gray Heron, Little Egret, Red Kite, and numerous Common Buzzards added to our numbers.

"Because it was fall migration we saw flocks of 30---40 Great-crested Grebe, Northern Lapwing, Common Redshank, and Eurasian Curlew. It's always thrilling to see any species in impressive numbers! Black-headed Gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen almost every day. Now we hope to be able to identify those species when they show up in Ocean City!

"Ireland and the British Isles have their fair share of "nuisance" birds, each with its own unique behaviors and identification: Black-billed Magpie, Eurasian Jackdaw,

Rooks, and Hooded Crows. The Eurasian Blackbird is actually a thrush.

"Lastly, we had several sightings of the following: Coal Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Goldcrest, European Stonechat, Mistle Thrush, White Wagtail, Rock Pipit, Reed Bunting, Common Chaffinch, European Greenfinch, and Eurasian Linnet. We had single sightings of Eurasian Treecreeper, Redwing, and European Goldfinch.

"We had lots of music sessions along the way. At one stop an eight-year-old girl was playing the uilleann pipes in a trio of musicians! We were told that it usually takes about fifteen years to learn how to play that instrument. The first Saturday night was spent at Tossie's Cottage in County Armagh. It is a small house located in the country and was originally Tommy Makem's family home. It is still owned by the Makem family, famous for traditional Irish music. Now it is used once a month for a "session." Musicians drop in as the evening progresses. The music was authentic and heartwarming.

"Along the way we visited New Grange, a Neolithic tomb site which is older than Stonehenge and has been restored. We were able to enter the narrow passageway and were told that on the winter solstice, if the sun is shining, a narrow band of sunshine comes in through the entrance and shines on the ancient graves there. We also saw Navan Fort in County Armagh, which is on a drumlin, a sand hill formed by a glacier. It was a pagan sacrificial site.

"We had a drive around Belfast and went into the area of "The Troubles." It is a safe location now. All of the buildings have colorful murals on them of famous people who have fought for human rights, such as Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, as well as several Irish leaders. The Irish are very thankful for Bill Clinton's decision to stay in the oval office during Easter weekend of 1998 until a settlement was reached. There is no border crossing now into Northern Ireland: however, the Brexit vote may cause Northern Ireland to recreate one and cause tensions to return.

"We traveled to the following major locations on this trip: Dublin, Armagh with its Protestant and Catholic St. Patrick cathedrals, Belfast and the Belfast Harbour

RSPB Preserve, Wexford and its Slobs (sloppy sand flats formed in an estuary), Waterford, and as far south as Cobh, the last stop of the Titanic in 1912.

"We would ponder a third trip, if there were not so many other places that we want to see. It's fun country in which to travel, and the people are very friendly. By the way, craic, which is pronounced like "crack," means "having fun." Perhaps the Guinness had something to do with it! ----Larry and Jean Fry



**Migrants in your Midst.
Bird Migratory Day,
May 13, 2-4 pm. Jug Bay Wetlands
Sanctuary HQ.
1361 Wrighton Rd., Lothian, Maryland.**

The remarkable phenomenon of yearly bird migration will be celebrated on this day through three presentations reflecting international, national and local perspectives given by experienced biologists. This event is sponsored by the Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary, Maryland Ornithological Society, Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership, and Anne Arundel Bird Club. The presenters are:

Matt Jeffery, National Audubon Society. Matt will describe the annual migratory journey along the Atlantic Flyway, the new science and technology helping us understand the threats posed during the journey, and Audubon's conservation programs aimed at protecting priority species and their habitat. The impact of climate change will also be addressed and how people can support remedial measures. Piping Plover, Prothonotary Warbler and Wood Thrush will take center stage.

Mike Quinlan, Master Naturalist and Friends of Jug Bay volunteer: Mike will provide an overview of the MAPS program (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship), a continent-wide breeding season study started in 1990 at Jug Bay, making the bird banding station one of the oldest, continuously-operating stations in the

program. Participants will learn that survival of adult and first-year birds is often as important or more so than productivity in driving population declines, the importance of wintering grounds and migration routes, and how the interaction of weather and habitat greatly affect vital rates. Considerations of climate are crucial for conservation efforts.

Greg Kearns, Veteran Naturalist at Patuxent River Park for Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission:

As a bird bander for 25 years Greg has monitored and banded thousands of rails, birds of prey, among other species. The tidal freshwater marshes of the Patuxent River are well known for their annual fall concentration of migrant Sora Rails and Greg will describe his studies on their migration and the importance of Jug Bay's wild rice stands. He will also describe the migratory journeys taken by Ospreys and studies undertaken along the Patuxent River. Refreshments will be provided.

-----Colin Rees, Anne Arundel



Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report as of March 24, 2017

by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the last committee status report was published in The Maryland Yellowthroat. This report covers MD/DCRC review package 167. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. New "state" species (marked with asterisks) include Black-bellied Whistling Duck and Sandhill Crane for DC. These additions bring the total species on the Official Lists of the Birds of DC to 338. The total species on the Official List of the Birds of Maryland remains at 450.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at the following URL:
<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.htm>

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MD Records Accepted:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2016-027].
 Walden Golf Course, Crofton, Anne Arundel County. 30-May-2016. Eight birds.

Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* [MD/2013-028].
 Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County.
 12-Jun-2013. One juvenile.

Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* [MD/2016-048].
 Isle of Wright Bay, Ocean City, Worcester County. 01-Oct-2016. One adult female.

Sandhill Crane, *Antigone canadensis* [MD/1997-354]. Snow Hill, Worcester County. 25-Oct-1970 through 07-Nov-1970. One immature.

Say's Phoebe, *Sayornis saya* [MD/2016-051].
 Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County. 09-Nov-2016. One bird.

Gray Kingbird, *Tyrannus dominicensis* [MD/2016-054]. Rock Hall, Kent County.
 15-Nov-2016. One bird.

Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus* [MD/2016-060].
 Callaway, Saint Mary's County.
 14-Dec-2016 through 20-Dec-2016. One bird.

MD Records Accepted:

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii* [MD/2016-039]. North Point State Park, North Point, Baltimore County. 22-Aug-2016. One bird.

MD Records Not Accepted:

Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* [MD/2013-085]. Easton, Talbot County. 21-Nov-2013. One adult female.

Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* [MD/2015-060]. Ocean City, Worcester County. 18-Jul-2015. One female.

frigatebird species, *Fregata* sp. [MD/2012-139]. City Dump, Berlin, Worcester County. 25-Apr-1965. One bird.

frigatebird species, *Fregata* sp. [MD/2016-049]. Carr Point, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County. 06-Jun-1987. One adult male.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2016-045]. Chesapeake Bay, Edesville, Kent County. 18-Sep-2016. One adult.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2016-046]. Chesapeake Bay, Rock Hall, Kent County. 28-Sep-2016. One bird.

Lesser Goldfinch, *Spinus psaltria* [MD/2016-023]. Friends School, Baltimore, Baltimore County. 07-May-2016. One adult, black-backed race.

DC Records Accepted:

*Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [DC/2016-044].
 Roosevelt Island. 20-Sep-2016. One bird.

*Sandhill Crane, *Antigone canadensis* [DC/2016-055]. National Mall. 25-Nov-2016. Three birds.

DC Records Not Accepted:

Sandhill Crane, *Antigone canadensis* [DC/2013-089]. Fort Lincoln. 15-Dec-2013. Twenty-nine birds.

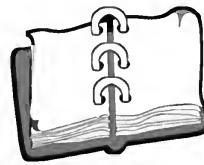


Editor's Note

Les Roslund has decided to step away from writing Birds of Note after 11 years of penning accounts of the notable birds seen, and who saw them, in Maryland and DC. That amounts to more than 50 columns! Les' contributions to *The Maryland Yellowthroat* have been thorough, always well-written, and an enjoyable read. As Editor, I regret Les' decision as much as is possible. When the BON came through the door for each issue, I knew it would be meticulously prepared and up-to-date. Thanks, Les, you have been a terrific contributor and I wish you good birding on the trail!

To my mind, the Birds of Note fills a particular niche in the records of bird sightings that isn't duplicated by the more immediate *mdbirding* listings or the more enduring accounts in *Maryland Birdlife* and the documents of the MD/DC Records Committee. It is sort of a mid-term look back on the season that was, and a recognition of the activities of some of our most assiduous birders. Getting recognized in the BON was a real *feather* in your cap.

I hope we can find someone to pick up the reins, and continue Les' good work. I earnestly encourage you to think about doing this, or reflect on whether you know of someone who would be able to step into this important role. Please don't hesitate to contact me (rdonham8@gmail.com) if you have questions or ideas. Thanks!



MOS Calendar

May - June 2017
By Marilyn VEEK

Tuesday, May 2

■ **Baltimore.** Lake Roland. Weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Meet at the entrance to the Boardwalk. Leader Marty Brazeau, 410-440-1128 or tropicbirder56@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** *Patricia Delgado*, Superintendent and Wetland Ecologist, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. The sanctuary is 1,700 acres of open water, tidal freshwater marshes, forested wetlands, upland and riparian forest, creeks, meadows, pine and sand barrens, and fields along the Patuxent River. Patricia will discuss the research, stewardship, and education programs administered by federal, state and county government agencies at Jug Bay. 7 PM. Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum, Baltimore.

■ **Montgomery.** Rock Creek Park, DC. Early migrant warblers, vireos, etc. 7 AM. Meet at Picnic Area #18, one-half mile below the Nature Center on Ridge Rd. Reservations required. Call the leader for more information or specific directions. Leader Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

Wednesday, May 3

■ **Baltimore.** First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** Help elect new officers and plan for the club's future. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Ctr in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

Wednesday-Sunday, May 3-7

 **YMOS.** World Series of Birding. Depart Wednesday AM for 3 days of scouting. We'll participate in the Big Day on Saturday, trying to find as many species as we can in 24 hours. We'll return Sunday after the Awards Brunch. The Birdathon fundraising will hopefully pay for registration, motel costs, the Awards Brunch, and most of the food costs. For more information, see the ymos.org website.

Thursday, May 4

■ Baltimore. Papermill Flats and Ashland NCR Trail. Trip to two locations for marsh birds, lingering waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds. Bring spotting scope if you have one. 8 AM. Meet at NCR Trail parking lot, north side of Ashland/Paper Mill Rd. Leaders Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net, and Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Frederick.** *David Smith* will tell us all about the wonders of Kestrels. 7-9 PM. Location TBA. Contact Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369.

■ Patuxent/PG. Regular-scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. ADA-compliant. **6 PM.** Note switch to summer schedule. Meet end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Heights. Leader David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net. No reservations required.

Friday, May 5

DINNER AND MEETING. **Harford.** "Photography of Animals from Harford County Biomes and Riparian Habitats," by *Frank Marsden*, Director of Eden Mill Nature Center. Pizza dinner begins promptly at 6:30 PM, general business meeting at 7 PM, followed by presentation. Harford Glen Environmental Education Center, 502 W Wheel Rd, Bel Air. For dinner reservations, contact Johanne Henrickson, johen24@gmail.com.

■ Montgomery. Birding by Ear at Hughes Hollow. Tune up your ears as we listen for and learn to identify the songs and calls of migrant and local breeding birds. The trip will be geared to new birders but all are welcome. 7 AM. Meet at the parking lot at

Hughes Hollow. Limit 10. Reservations required. For more information email leader Paul Woodward at grackling@att.net.

Saturday, May 6

■ Anne Arundel. Swan Creek. This trip will visit a variety of habitats, to include upland woods, wetlands, beach, and dredge cells. This time of year we get any kind of migrant, but those of most interest will be shorebirds, since this is Anne Arundel County's premier shorebird venue. The trip will include walking on some very coarse stone and rocks; therefore, good quality hiking boots are encouraged. We will generally stay on well-traveled paths, but tick protection is always a good idea. Bring water and some snacks. There should be a port-a-pot available part way through the trip; otherwise, the restroom in the office facility is available before the walk and can be visited at one point during the walk. If you haven't birded here before, you will need to sign a one-time release. Prepare to see some great birds! 7 AM (half day.) Meet at Swan Creek. Contact Kevin Smith at 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

■ Baltimore. Susquehanna SP Rock Run Area and Swan Harbor Farm Park. Trip to river in Harford County for resident Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and a collection of spring migrants. Possibly one of the best spring warbler watching sites in Maryland; 18 to 24 warbler species possible in a single day. Bring a picnic lunch for the wrap-up of what could be an excellent morning of birding. Then on to Swan Harbor Farm Park for shorebirds, possible rails, herons, egrets, Glossy Ibis. Possible breeding Pied-billed Grebes. 6:30 AM. Meet at Cromwell Bridge Road P&R. Or meet at 7:30 AM at the SP lot next to the old mill building. Leader Mary Anne Fluke, 443-690-4319 or mfluke62@gmail.com.

■ Caroline. Lynch Preserve, Two Johns. For more information about the preserve, go to www.eslc.org/land-preservation/preserves/. 8 AM. Park/meet at the end of Robins Creek Rd. Leaders Debby Bennett, dabennett1996@gmail.com, and Danny Poet.

■ Cecil. Fair Hill NRMA. Fair Hill in May is one of Cecil County's birdiest spots. A variety of habitats, including woods, fields and wetlands, means that we will see a number of different spring migrants. Portions of the trail may be muddy, so boots are recommended. 7 AM (half day.) Meet at the Foxcatcher Farm Covered Bridge parking lot near the Fair Hill Nature Center on Tawes Dr. There is an honor system daily fee (\$3 Maryland residents; \$4 out-of-state visitors). Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

MAY COUNT. Dorchester. 99th Dorchester Count. Compiler Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com or 215-248-4120.

■ Frederick. Hangout at the Hambright's. Potluck breakfast and birding at Don's house, 8076 Geaslin Dr, Middletown. Contact Don at 301-676-0635.

■ Harford. Ninth Annual Epic Birding Challenge at Susquehanna SP. The previous competitions have been well-attended and a lot of fun. So make room on your calendar to join us. Birders of all skill levels are welcome and will be made to feel comfortable. We will meet at the Rock Run Mill at 6:30 AM for team selections and rules review. Counting will begin at 6:45 AM and end at 11:30 AM. A rally celebration will be held at noon at the Laurrapin Grill in Havre de Grace. Family members and others are welcome to join the contestants for the celebration. Rain date Sunday, May 7. Contact coordinator Tom Gibson, 410-734-4135 or gibsonlld@aol.com.

■ Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. Early migrant warblers, vireos, etc. 7 AM. Meet at Picnic Area #18, one-half mile below the Nature Center on Ridge Rd. Reservations required. Call leader Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859, for more information or specific directions.

■ Montgomery. Jug Bay/Patuxent River. Join visiting Hartford (CT) Audubon Society members when Jug Bay Naturalist Greg Kearns takes us on a pontoon trip up the Patuxent River. Highlight of the trip: an opportunity to visit a nest of one of the thirty

nesting pairs of Osprey and take a look at the young. In addition there's a good chance of spring warblers including Prothonotary. Greg will be filling us in on how his work planting wild rice has brought back many duck and rail species to this area. Trip limit 10. 8 AM. For reservations and further information contact Stephanie Lovell, 240-242-3235 or amorelllovell@gmail.com.

■ Patuxent/PG. Regular-scheduled walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area. 7:30 AM. Meet at end of Lemon Br Rd off Laurel Bowie Rd just north of Bowie College. No reservations needed. Leader Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Washington. Cushwa Basin. Enjoy a morning of birding along the C&O Canal. 7:30 AM. Meet at Cushwa Basin parking lot in Williamsport. Contact leader Sandy Sagalkin at sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465 for additional information.

■ Washington. City Park. 8 AM. Meet at the Hager House parking lot to bird Hagerstown's lovely City Park. Contact Larry Zaleski at 301-491-2866 or larry.zaleski@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 7

■ Anne Arundel. Foreman's Branch Bird Banding Station. Previously known as Chino Farms, this is the only major migratory bird banding station on the Eastern Shore of MD. The small group of banders will demonstrate how they ensnare the birds in the nets, carefully extract them, transport them back to the banding shed, note the age and weight and attach the bands. We will get to observe birds in a manner not possible in the wild. This trip is limited to 15 people, so an RSVP is required. 7 AM (half day.) Meet at Bay 50 Parking Lot. Contact Diane Westbrook, 443-618-8421 or edwestbrook1@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Oregon Ridge and Ag Center. Oregon Ridge is a fine spot for warblers in early May, with some birds on territory and others passing through. The Center for Maryland Agriculture, just across the street, is great for meadow birds. Grasshopper Sparrow (breeds), Eastern Meadowlark,

Bobolink and Savannah Sparrow are all possible. 8 AM. Meet at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 13555 Beaver Dam Rd. Leader Simon Best, simonrabest@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Cylburn Easy Walk. Casual spring walk for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. 8:30 AM. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot. Leader Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com.

■ Cecil. Turkey Point: Birding 101. Join the staff of Elk Neck SP for a leisurely walk on the Turkey Point Lighthouse Trail. This is a great trip for beginners to learn about identifying birds by size, silhouette, song and habitat, and to practice using binoculars. Be prepared for a round-trip of about two miles. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are a few hilly sections. Wear comfortable shoes/boots for walking. Bring drinks and/or snacks. Sunscreen and bug spray are strongly recommended. 8 AM (half day.) Meet at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. No trip leader, but registration is required. Call 410-287-5333 for information and to make a reservation.

MAY COUNT. Frederick. Help out with the May Count at the Fred Archibald Audubon Sanctuary. 6 AM. Contact David Smith, 410-549-7082.

■ Howard. Western Regional Park. Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Facilities available. 8 AM, 2-3 hours. Meet at Carr's Mill Road parking lot. Leader David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com or 410-370-0747.

■ Kent. Millington NRMA. Migrating warblers should still be on the move while many breeding specialties will have established territories in Kent County's most extensive forest. 8 AM (half day.) Meet at Dollar General off Philosopher's Terrace in Chestertown. Leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Montgomery. Little Bennett RP. Near peak migration for warblers and vireos, including those breeding in this varied habitat. Half day. Reservations required. Contact Gemma Radko, 301-514-2894, for time and directions.

■ Montgomery. Izaak Walton League Conservation Farm. Once again, the B-CC Chapter is generously providing us access to this large private property south of Poolesville. Woods, hedgerows, streams, fields, and ponds provide a wide range of bird habitats, and migration should be well underway. 7 AM (half day.) Meet at the League's Chapterhouse. Reservations required, limit 12. For reservations and more information, contact leader Jim Nelson at kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517.

■ Talbot. Annual spring trip to the Pocomoke Swamp. We will bird the edge of the Nassawango Creek Preserve along Johnson Rd in search of migrant and resident songbirds with a focus on wood warblers. This location yields an average of 14-17 species of warblers, as well as vireos, tanagers, Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks and Red-shouldered Hawks. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM (all-day trip). Bring lunch, drinks and snacks. Leader Terry Allen, 410-829-5840 or pattyallen10@hotmail.com.

■ Tri-county. Nanticoke WMA (aka Nutter's Neck) for migrating warblers, vireos, flycatchers and newly arrived summer residents. Trip includes easy walking on dirt roads and fields, but is not ADA accessible. 7:30 AM. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot. Bring lunch and snacks. For more information, contact leader Mike Walsh at 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net.

Monday-Friday, May 8-13

■ Talbot. "Warbler Road" off the Blue Ridge Parkway near Bedford, VA. This venue is a renowned hotspot for observing many high elevation breeding birds seen infrequently on the eastern shore. We will stay two nights at the Peaks of Otter Lodge, followed by three nights at Canaan Valley Resort SP, WV. Canaan Valley is the highest elevation valley

in the east and hosts a different group of breeding birds rarely seen in our area. Leader Charles Hopkins, 443-786-6332 or chopkins54@goeaston.net.

Tuesday, May 9

■ **Baltimore.** Lake Roland. Weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Meet at the entrance to the Boardwalk. Leader John Landers, 410-292-9549 or dado1bw@aol.com.

MEETING. **Kent.** Dr. Kim Derrickson of Loyola University Maryland will speak on "Wood Thrushes and Northern Mockingbirds." 7:30 PM. Light refreshments follow the program. Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off E Campus Ave, Chestertown.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PG.** "The Ordinary, Extraordinary Chimney Swift" by Joan Cwi. While the hummingbird is the closest taxonomic relative to the swift, swifts certainly did not inherit the hummingbird's genes for iridescence. But these plain, little birds are extraordinary in many ways. We will discuss this particular species in regard to anatomy, speed, dexterity, nesting, and migration based on sixteen years of research and observation. Meeting at the College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 1985 Cpl Scott Dr off Paint Branch Parkway, at the E end of College Ave. Doors open at 7 PM for refreshments and socializing; program begins at 7:30.

Wednesday, May 10

■ **Allegany/Garrett.** Mt Nebo WMA including the pond and banding area. 7 AM. Carpool from Cumberland will leave Ollie's parking lot. Anyone wishing to carpool contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. 8 AM. Meet at Mt Nebo WMA on Rt 219. Leader is Connie Skipper.

Thursday, May 11

■ **Baltimore.** White Hall NCR Trail. Excellent spot for spring migrants and early nesting passerines. Warblers, vireos, thrushes, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, both orioles, and many more songbirds are

possible. 8 AM. Meet at the Trail parking lot on the right at Wiseburg and White Hall Rds. Leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Howard.** "Three Decades of Birding Howard County," by Bonnie Ott. Discover how the birds have changed along with changes in the county. Bonnie will tell us how and where to find birds in suburbia. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Saturday, May 13

May Count and International Migratory Bird Day

MAY COUNT. **Allegany.** Compiler J. B. Churchill, jchurchi@gmail.com.

MAY COUNT. **Anne Arundel.** Coordinator Dotty Mumford, 443-214-5154 or dottymum@comcast.net.

MAY COUNT. **Baltimore.** All-day count through Baltimore City & County to count all the birds we can find, and have the results tallied to compare with previous years' May Count data. Contact compiler Joel Martin, jcdlmartin@aol.com, to let him know where you want to count (he can make sure nobody else is duplicating your coverage), and then contact him later with your totals.

■ **Baltimore.** Milford Mill Park. For people not quite up to gathering the data in the May Count, one of our best spring warbler spots. One mile of level walking on a mostly paved path, for migrant warblers thrushes, tanagers, grosbeaks and other songbirds. If there's been rain recently, then portions of the trail could be muddy or even have standing water, so wear boots. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Park. Leader Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete6314webb@gmail.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Youth Trip to Cromwell Valley Park, Willow Grove. Our return visit to the park is at one of the best times for migrating warblers and vireos. In addition, we can expect to see nesting birds including both Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Bluebirds,

Tree Swallows and Warbling Vireos, plus a wide variety of other migrants including cuckoos, thrushes, sparrows and who knows what else. This trip is highly recommended! 8 AM. Meet at the Nature Education Ctr, 2175 Cromwell Bridge Rd. Leader John Robinson, 410-483-6620 or jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

MAY COUNT. **Calvert.** Compiler is Sherman Suter, sjssuter29@verizon.net, 410-586-1073 or 703-768-5922.

MAY COUNT. **Caroline.** Contact Debby Bennett at 410-829-4952 or dabennett1996@gmail.com for more information.

MAY COUNT. **Carroll.** Parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas to count resident and migrant bird species throughout the County. Contact Don Jewell to verify your bird counting area (jewelldg@gmail.com or 410-259-4716). The Tally Rally will be hosted by Susan Bollinger at her home. RSVP to Susan (410-848-2050) no later than Wednesday, May 10. Plan on bringing a food item or a cash donation (\$5).

MAY COUNT. **Cecil.** The May Count is an attempt to get a "snapshot" of bird populations all over the state. The Cecil Bird Club will cover Fair Hill NRMA, Elk Neck State Forest and Perryville Town Park. In addition, if you wish to count another area, or count yard birds and feeders, that's fine. Leaders are needed for all locations. (If you are counting feeder birds, the leader for your yard is YOU!). This is the most fun you can have on a census! Please contact compiler Richard Donham (rdonham8@gmail.com or 610-932-0634) with your area preference and for the fairly simple observation records that are needed.

MAY COUNT. **Charles.** Compiler is Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com.

MAY COUNT. **Dorchester.** 100th Dorchester Count. Compiler Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com or 215-248-4120.

MAY COUNT. **Frederick.** It's peak migration, so this is the most fun you can have working on a census. Lots of eyes and ears are needed! Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

MAY COUNT. **Garrett.** Compiler Nadine Jakubowski, nmjak0527@gmail.com or 443-608-9248.

MAY COUNT. **Harford.** Help contribute to this important data collection day and monitor migration throughout our locale. Contact coordinator Rick Cheicante, 410-803-2712 or rickcheicante@cs.com, for assignments.

MAY COUNT. **Howard.** Compiler Kevin Heffernan, kjheff122@gmail.com or 443-668-7618.

MAY COUNT. **Kent.** An all-day effort to census as much of Kent County as possible. Join a field party or count in your neighborhood. Contact Walter Ellison or Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

MAY COUNT. **Montgomery.** Compiler Diane Ford, dmford455@yahoo.com.

MAY COUNT. **Patuxent/PG.** Contact Coordinator Fred Fallon to receive/confirm your count area, fwfallon@ymail.com or 410-286-8152.

MAY COUNT. **Somerset.** Compiler Paul Bystrak, shrike@comcast.net or 443-783-1268.

MAY COUNT. **St. Mary's.** Compiler J. Tyler Bell, jtylerbell@yahoo.com.

MAY COUNT. **Washington.** To participate, contact coordinator Mark Abdy, 301-432-7696 or mjabdy@yahoo.com.

MAY COUNT. **Wicomico.** Compiler Ellen Lawler, 410-546-9056 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

MAY COUNT. **Worcester.** Compiler Marcia Balestri, mebalestri@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 14

■ Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. Monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8-11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Leader David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. We will walk on paved and grassy/rocky trails looking for common birds of the park. Listening and learning bird calls will be highlighted. During nesting season, participants can assist in checking bluebird boxes. Though participants can leave at any time, the walk will conclude after two hours with a review and count of birds observed. Canceled for rain. If weather is iffy or for questions, contact leader. 8 AM (half day.) Meet in the first parking lot on left after the entry hut. Hut is not typically staffed this early, so entry should be free. Contact Stacy Epperson, stac.epperson@gmail.com (preferred) or 410-987-7533.

■ Baltimore. Gwynns Falls-Leakin Park. Please join us for a bird walk at the height of spring migration in this 120 acre wilderness park in west Baltimore City. The park contains mature and secondary forest as well as riparian habitats and some limited field habitat. 8 AM. Meet at the Winans Meadows parking lot at 4500 Franklintown Rd. Leaders Elise and Paul Kreiss, 410-367-8194, ekreiss@verizon.net, or paul1kreiss@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for waterfowl, marsh birds, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 8:30 AM (half day.) Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

MAY COUNT. **Frederick.** Audrey Carroll May Count. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6 AM. Coordinator David Smith, 410-549-7082.

■ Harford. Warbler Walk. Join us during prime birding season in a beautiful location. Leader Tim Houghton will guide you to various hot spots depending on the status of the spring migration and what birds are being seen at the time. There is a good chance for Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and yellowthroats. Expect a variety of passerines along with waterfowl and waders out on the river. A few eagles should fly over as well. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Rock Run Mill. Contact Tim at timhoughton@comcast.net. or 410-510-7504.

MAY COUNT. **Talbot.** Join the TBC in surveying all of Talbot County. Areas to be assigned to assure thorough coverage of the county. If interested, contact Dave Palmer, dpalmermd59@gmail.com or 410-829-3376 for assignment of birding areas. There will be no bird walk on this date to allow birders freedom to cover as much of the area as possible.

■ Washington. Mothers Day birding along the Final Attack Trail at Antietam Battlefield. Co-sponsored with Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Burnside Bridge parking lot. Contact leader Sandy Sagalkin at sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465.

Tuesday, May 16

■ Baltimore. Lake Roland. Weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Meet at the entrance to the Boardwalk. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Wednesday, May 17

■ Allegany/Garrett. River Road, Grantsville. 8:30 AM. Carpool from Cumberland will leave Ollie's parking lot. Anyone wishing to carpool contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086. 9 AM. Meet on the far side of the first River Road bridge over the Casselman River. Leaders are Joe and Carol McDaniel.

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "The Ordinary, Extraordinary Chimney Swift" with Joan Cwi

of the Baltimore Bird Club. Joan will discuss this particular species in regard to anatomy, speed, dexterity, nesting and migration based on sixteen years of research and observation. For the past sixteen years, Joan and two other birding colleagues have sponsored spring and fall swift migration watches for the BBC. During the watches, as many as 7,000 Chimney Swifts have been counted entering a roosting chimney in less than an hour! 7 PM. Blue Heron Center, Quiet Waters Park. Contact Barbara Johnson at 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

MEETING. Montgomery. Kurt Schwartz on "Cape May." Kurt will have the latest photos from his frequent trips to Cape May especially during the migration season. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting starts at 8 PM. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

■ Washington. Pangborn and Fairgrounds Parks. 8 AM. Meet at the pond pavilion. Contact Bruce or Linda Field at 301-797-6189 to register.

Thursday, May 18

MEETING. Caroline. Members Night at Martinak SP. Includes a walk at dusk with Ranger Dave Reinecke. 7:30 PM. Martinak SP Visitor's Center.

■ Patuxent/PG. Regular-scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. ADA-compliant. 6 PM. Meet W end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Heights. Leader David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net. No reservations required.

Friday-Sunday, May 19-21

MOS CONFERENCE. Wisp Resort, McHenry, MD. Full schedule of field trips, lectures, and other activities.

Saturday, May 20

■ Anne Arundel. Soldier's Delight. Join us for a 2.3 mile hike through deciduous forest and open grasslands where we will look for spring birds using sight and sound. Soldier's Delight offers a unique habitat of serpentine grasslands, also known as "barrens",

providing us with a little bit of prairie right outside of Baltimore. All ages and experience levels welcome. 8 AM. Meet at the Millersville Commuter Lot to carpool to the visitor's center parking lot, 5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills. Contact Sarah Luttrell, 614-352-7718 or luttrell.sa@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Leader Ray Kandt, 443-417-5015.

■ Frederick. Bird Banding Demo. 9-11 AM. Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary. Contact David Smith, 410-549-7082.

■ Patuxent/PG. Regularly scheduled walk at Governor Bridge Park. 7:30 AM. Gov Br Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 310. Leader Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Washington. Catoctin Park and Manahan Rd. 7 AM (half day.) Meet at Rt. 66 P&R. Contact Shirley Ford at 301-241-3020 or bluebirdlover12@outlook.com to register.

Sunday, May 21

■ Anne Arundel. Southern Maryland Birding. Nick will lead a trip to various birding areas in South PG and Anne Arundel Counties. Patuxent River Park, Calvert Cliff SP and Flag Ponds are usually on Nick's list as well as the Cypress Swamp and other areas. Good chance to see Red-headed Woodpecker and also Yellow-throated Warbler which are both uncommon in Anne Arundel County. Pack a lunch and some good shoes for walking on a number of trails. 6 AM. Meet at Parole P&R. Contact Nick Nicholson, 410-353-3329 or nickinchrist@netzero.com.

■ Cecil. Delaware Shorebirds: Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs. May is a spectacular time on the shores of Delaware Bay. Horseshoe crabs lay their eggs and huge flocks of shorebirds arrive to feed on them in preparation for the final leg of their trip to their northern breeding grounds. We'll head

to the best places in Delaware to see them. Bring breakfast, lunch and snack, or money to buy take-out food on the way. Bring scope if you have one. Insect repellent and sunscreen are strongly recommended. 7 AM (all day.) Carpool leaves from Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt 40 and Rt 213 in Elkton. Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

■ Kent. Delaware Bay Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs. The annual May gathering of northbound shorebirds including large numbers of Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstones in bright breeding dress, feeding on Horseshoe Crab eggs along the shores of Delaware Bay is a migration spectacle. We will visit the Delaware Bay shore from Mispillion Light south to Prime Hook; an area also good for coastal marsh birds, gulls and terns. Full day, bring lunch. 8 AM. Meet at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Talbot. Millington WMA. Prime migration location; possibly 12-15 warbler species (including Hooded and Kentucky), vireos, thrushes, flycatchers. Possible breakfast stop at Two Trees restaurant. Since space is limited at the restaurant, please advise leader if interested. 6:30 AM. Depart Easton Acme. Leader Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009 or vdesanctis@verizon.net.

Monday, May 22

DINNER MEETING. Tri-county. "Better Birding", presented by *George Armistead*. Dinner begins at 6 PM at the MAC Education Center, 909 Progress Circle off Snow Hill Rd. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share, \$2 towards paper products and a contribution to the raffle table. For more information, contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

■ Washington. Mills Park. 8 AM. Meet at the lot accessed from Belview Ave. Contact Judy Lilga, 301-432-2276 or jslilga@wildblue.net, to participate.

Tuesday, May 23

■ Baltimore. Lake Roland. Weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Meet at the entrance to the Boardwalk. Leader Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net.

■ Patuxent/PG. Birding by bus on Hart-Miller Island. A rare opportunity to drive rather than walk the 7-mile perimeter road. The bus will stop frequently to allow us out to look for birds. Hart-Miller Island is a dredge-containment facility managed by Maryland Environmental Services (MES). During lunch break at the Administration Bldg an MES rep will give a presentation on how the island is managed for the benefit of wildlife. Reservations are strictly required due to the limited capacity of the bus. Contact Marcia Watson, marshwren50@comcast.net, no later than May 1; she will then relay details on meeting time and place, and what to bring.

MEETING. Washington. Members Night. Bring short presentations, photos, stories, or anything of interest to share. 7 PM. Mt Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt Aetna Rd. Call 301-797-8454 for additional information.

Saturday, May 27

■ Anne Arundel. Patapsco Valley SP - Glen Artney Area. We will walk the Grist Mill Trail though a heavily-wooded area along the Patapsco River. We should be at the end of the spring migration period and should have good looks at warblers and orioles. The trail is hard-packed and relatively flat. These is a \$3 per person entry fee. 7 AM (half day.) Meet at Millersville Commuter Lot. Contact Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

■ Baltimore. Bombay Hook NWR. For a wide variety of migrating shorebirds. Possible Turnstones, Sanderlings, breeding plumage Red Knots, Marsh Wrens, Seaside Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks. Purple Martins and Tree Swallows at their colonies, and Night-herons likely. Be prepared for heat and biting insects. Minimal walking. Bring lunch.

Telescopes very useful. 7 AM. Meet at Nursery Rd P&R OR Bombay Hook at 9:15 AM. Leader Pete Webb, 443-904-6314 or pete6314webb@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Patterson Park. Look for late spring migrants and resident Wood Ducks, American Kestrel, and surprises in this urban oasis. 8 AM. Meet at the White House in the Park. For questions or to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com.

■ Harford. Havre de Grace Paddle Outing. Bring your floating glory (kayaks, canoes, stand ups), to visit the Susquehanna Flats for migrants and mating species and already hatched babies. Colleen Webster and Josh Emm will ply the waters for swimmers, divers and of course, fliers. 9 AM. Meet at the Tydings Park boat ramp. We can help unload your craft. No rentals available. Call Colleen, 410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu, for further details.

■ Howard. Patapsco Scrubland. We'll look for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other edge species. Depending on conditions, we may continue into the woods. Moderate to possibly difficult walking: steep trails with several stream crossings, so wear appropriate footwear. Facilities available. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet at 735 River Rd (up long drive, take right-hand split & park by house). Leader Felicia Lovelett, 301-802-1969 or c5nest@gmail.com.

■ Patuxent/PG. Coastal beaches for annual spring shorebird migration-horseshoe crab egg-laying synchrony. Visits will be made to Mispillion Light, Bombay Hook, Pt Mahon, and possibly other sites. Bring water and lunch. 7 AM. Meet at Bowie P&R. Make reservations with leader Fred Fallon, f Fallon@ymail.com or 410-86-8152.

Sunday, May 28

■ Talbot. Delaware Bayshore including the DuPont Nature Center at Mispillion Light (think Red Knots). We will go where the birds have been reported. Expect to see a large number of species. Bring lunch, drinks and

insect repellent. 6:30 AM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Charles Hopkins, 443-786-6332 or chopkins54@goeaston.net.

■ Tri-county. Truitt's and other Worcester County Landings on Chincoteague Bay for summer residents of the coastal marshes, including rails and sparrows. 7:30 AM. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. For information, contact leader Mike Hillman at 989-313-9010 or mike@cbfieldstation.org.

Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day)

■ Harford. Hidden Valley/World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats. Leader Susan Hood will guide us to the aptly named Hidden Valley area with its sparkling stream surrounded by a beautiful stand of mature hemlock. Carpooling is encouraged because of limited parking space. The trip will proceed from there to the Flats. 7 AM. Meet in the parking lot at the northern end of Madonna Rd where it crosses Deer Creek. Contact Susan at susanhood@comcast.net or 410-877-0574.

■ Washington. Memorial Day birding along the Final Attack Trail at Antietam Battlefield. Co-sponsored with Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Burnside Bridge parking lot. Contact leader Sandy Sagalkin at sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465.

Thursday, June 1

ANNUAL PICNIC. Frederick. Our favorite spot for this event is Pinecliff Park, where there is a lovely pavilion just in case we have a bit of rain. Bring binoculars, a dish to share, plate, utensils and drink. We'll meet at 6 PM to eat and then do some birding.

■ Patuxent/PG. Regular-scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. ADA-compliant. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Heights. Leader David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net. No reservations required.

Saturday, June 3

■ **Allegany/Garrett.** Mt Savage. Looking for Red-Headed Woodpeckers, Bobolink and Dickcissel. Mary Huebner will lead this trip. 8 AM. Meet at Mt Savage School, New School Rd. To carpool from Cumberland, meet at Ollie's parking lot at 7:30 AM. Anyone wishing to carpool from Oakland contact Nadine Jakubowski, nmjak0527@gmail.com or 443-608-9248. For info, contact Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086

■ **Anne Arundel.** Fair Hill NRMA. Fair Hill is one of the best birding spots in NE MD, and includes forests, fields and wetland. We will likely see numerous varieties of warblers, orioles, sparrows and meadowlarks. This is also one of the last nesting locations for Bobolinks in the state. Trails could be muddy, so bring your boots, and bug spray is recommended. Bring water and a snack. We will probably stop for lunch on the return trip. There is a \$3 entry fee for Maryland residents. 7 AM (half day.) Meet at Millersville Commuter Lot. Leader Sean McCandless. Contact Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

ANNUAL PICNIC. **Montgomery.** Black Hills Regional Park. Reservations for a shelter #H are made and we look forward to grilling and mingling with members. Afterwards we'll explore the park for birds. 5-8 PM.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regular-scheduled walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area. 7:30 AM. Meet at end of Lemon Br Rd off Laurel Bowie Rd just north of Bowie College. No reservations needed. Leader Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ **Washington.** Cushwa Basin. Enjoy a morning of birding along the C&O Canal. 7:30 AM. Meet at Cushwa Basin parking lot in Williamsport. Contact leader Sandy Sagalkin, sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465 for additional information.

MOS BOARD MEETING. Hosted by Washington County.

Sunday, June 4

■ **Anne Arundel.** Kinder Farm Park. We will walk on paved and grassy/rocky trails looking for common birds of the park. Listening and learning bird calls will be highlighted. During nesting season, participants may assist in checking bluebird boxes. Though participants may leave at any time, the walk will conclude after two hours with a review and count of birds observed. Canceled for rain. If weather is iffy or for questions, contact leader. 8 AM (half day.) Meet in the first parking lot on left after the entry hut. Hut is not typically staffed this early, so entry should be free. Contact Stacy Epperson, stac.epperson@gmail.com (preferred) or 410-987-7533.

PICNIC. **Baltimore.** Pot luck picnic at the Irvine Nature Center visitor center patio. Noon-2 PM. 11201 Garrison Forest Rd, Owings Mills. Contact food coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, to let him know what you're bringing. No cooking or heating on-site, so bring your food fully prepared.

■ **Cecil.** Field Trip for Beginners. Courthouse Point MHA is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and managed for hunting by the Maryland DNR. Possible sightings include Northern Harrier, Little Blue Heron, Wild Turkey, Marsh Wren, Scarlet Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Swamp Sparrow. This is one of the best spots in the county for the elusive Yellow-breasted Chat. Easy walking on mostly level ground. Sunscreen and bug spray are strongly recommended. Binoculars and enthusiasm are required! Note: Parking permit is required for each car. There is no fee. Request permit online from Maryland DNR, or mail your request to Gwynnbrook Wildlife and Heritage Service Office, 3740 Gwynnbrook Ave, Owings Mills, MD 21117. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt 40 and Rt 213 in Elkton. Leader Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

■ **Talbot.** Mill Creek Preserve near Wye Mills. Enjoy a stroll around one of MOS' properties that is under the stewardship of Talbot Bird Club. Expect breeding woodland

birds and possibly some late migrating warblers and other songbirds. 7 AM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002 or wbell2@washcoll.edu.

Tuesday, June 6

■ Patuxent/PG. South Tract of Patuxent Wildlife Center. First in a series of quarterly walks at the South Tract. We will walk some of the trails and stop at the Pollinator Garden and bird feeder area near the Visitors' Center. Be prepared to walk about 2 miles so wear sturdy shoes and pack water. 8 AM. Meet in the parking lot of the National Wildlife Visitors Center off Powder Mill Rd in Beltsville. Contact leader Marcia Watson, marshwren50@comcast.net, for more info.

Saturday, June 10

■ Allegany/Garrett. Field trip for Night Hawks, Whip-poor-wills and Owls. 8:15 PM. Meet on the downtown Cumberland Mall near Mark's Café. Garrett County carpool from Rt 36 and I-68 P&R at 7:15 PM. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ Baltimore. Mount Vista Park (near Perry Hall.) For Blue Grosbeak, Pine Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, possible Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-shouldered Hawk. 7:30 AM. Meet at Cromwell Bridge Rd P&R. Leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

■ Carroll. Grassland Birds of Carroll County. Join Bob Ringler as he leads us across the County in search of grassland birds and whatever else turns up. 8 AM (up to all day.) Meet at the P&R on Rte 32 just S of Rte 26 in Eldersburg. Contact Bob at 410-303-2792.

Sunday, June 11

■ Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. Monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8-11 AM.

Meet at Blue Heron Center. Leader David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for waterfowl, marsh birds, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Baltimore. 8 AM. Meet at the White House in the Park. For questions or to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com.

■ Harford. Susquehanna SP Warbler Walk. Catch the last of the migrating warblers along with resident flycatchers and orioles. Look for some nesting warblers as well. 7 AM. Meet in the parking area of the Mill at Rock Run. Contact leader Tim Houghton, timhoughton@comcast.net, or 410-510-7504, for details and likely and recent sightings.

■ Talbot. Tara Road in Dorchester County in search of calling Whip-poor-wills, Chuck-wills-widows and possibly an owl or two. 7 PM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leaders Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002 or wbell2@washcoll.edu, and George Radcliffe.

■ Washington. City Park. 8 AM. Meet at the Hager House parking lot. Co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. Contact Larry Zaleski at 301-491-2866.

Monday, June 12

PLANNING MEETING. **Talbot.** Potluck dinner. 7 PM. Hosts Priscilla and Paul Thut, 410-745-6657.

Tuesday, June 13

PLANNING MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** 6:30 PM. Frostburg Public Library. Street parking is available, as well as parking in back of the library. Take elevator to meeting room. Anyone wishing to carpool from Oakland contact Nadine at nmjak0527@gmail.com or 443-608-9248.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PG.** Annual business meeting and election of officers, and Members' Slide Show night. Bring ≤ 25 slides on flash drive. Please email Fred Fallon, fwallon@ymail.com, if you plan to show slides. Meeting at the College Park Airport Operations Building, 1985 Cpl Scott Dr off Paint Branch Parkway, at the E end of College Ave. Doors open at 7 PM for refreshments and socializing; program begins at 7:30.

Thursday, June 15

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regular-scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. ADA-compliant. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Heights. Leader David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net. No reservations required.

Saturday, June 17

■ **Anne Arundel.** Wooton's Landing and Sands Rd. Located along the Patuxent River, Wooton's Landing is a hidden gem for birding. Grass covered trails wind through forest-edged fields and wetlands with a deck overlooking the river wetlands. Boots may be needed but the trails are level. Next, we will take a short drive south to the park located at the intersection of Sands and Bayard Rds. This is an excellent location for falcons, Grasshopper Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks. There are moderate elevation changes. Bug spray and tick repellent is highly recommended for both locations. Both locations have small parking lots and no facilities. 7 AM (half day.) Meet at Parole P&R. Contact Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

■ **Cecil.** 8th Annual Northeast River Wade-In. Join us as we pull up our pant legs and wade into the Upper Chesapeake Bay to measure water quality the way retired Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler does with his "sneaker index." Rain or shine. Wear light-colored shoes that you don't mind getting wet. Free and open to the public—the more, the merrier! 10 AM-2 PM. Northeast Beach in Elk Neck SP. For details contact Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com or 410-996-5267.

■ **Harford.** Swan Harbor Farm Park Evening on the Rail Trail. Join experienced leader Dave Webb on the sunset trail for sightings of rails, bitterns, and other nocturnal species at Swan Harbor Farm Park, one of Maryland's "hot spots" of birding. Additional sites may be visited depending on what is being seen and where. Owls are also a possibility. 7:30 PM. Meet at the parking lot by the Agricultural Education Center. For further information contact Dave at porzana@comcast.net or 410-939-3537.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Governor Bridge Park. This park offers a wide variety of habitats - mature riparian woodlands, second growth scrub, open grassy fields, and small ponds and creeks. Regularly scheduled walk at in conjunction with Prince Georges Audubon Society. 7:30 AM. Meet inside the gate at the Park on Gov Br Rd, 1 mile from Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more info, contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ **Washington.** Morning of birding the Antietam Battlefield. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Burnside Bridge parking lot. Contact leader Mark Abdy, at mjabdy@yahoo.com or 301-432-7696.

Saturday-Sunday, June 17-18

■  **YMOS.** Youth trip to Garrett County. Interested students should contact George Radcliffe at radclifg@gmail.com

Saturday, June 24

SUMMER PICNIC. **Carroll.** Amy Hoffman will again be hosting this annual event. Enjoy good food and good company. Bring your bathing suit if you are so inclined. Amy has a great pool. 1 PM. Contact her at 410-549-3598 if you plan on attending and tell her what food item you will be bringing.

■ **Harford.** Perryville Community Park Paddle Outing. Join leaders Sue Procell, Colleen Webster, and Tom Gibson to paddle the usually serene waters of the well-protected Mill Creek and historic Furnace Bay. Eagles and Osprey are often seen soaring overhead, songbirds and wetland birds frequent the shoreline, and heron and waterfowl are common sightings. No rental

boats available. 9 AM. Meet at the launch at Stump Point. Contact Sue Procell, 443-417-4919 or procellmd@gmail.com, Colleen Webster, cwebster@harford.edu, or 410-459-4577, or Tom Gibson, 410-734-4135 or gibsonlld@aol.com.

■ Washington. Pangborn and Fairgrounds Parks. Co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. 8 AM. Meet at the pond pavilion. Contact Larry Zaleski, 301-491-2866.

■ Washington. Birding along the Final Attack Trail at Antietam Battlefield. Co-sponsored with Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Burnside Bridge parking lot. Contact leader Sandy Sagalkin, sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465.

Sunday, June 25

PICNIC. Washington. Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. 4 PM. Camp Harding Park, 13029 Pectonville Rd, near Big Pool. Contact Anna Hutzell, amp8185@aol.com or 301-797-8454, for additional information.

Wednesday, June 28

■ Washington. Kiwanis Park. Co-sponsored with Hagerstown Parks and Recreation. 8 AM. Meet at the Kiwanis Park lot, 371 Dynasty Dr. Contact leader Sandy Sagalkin, sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465.

Friday, June 30

■ Howard. Ospreys at Jug Bay. A three-hour tour by pontoon boat at high tide to see Ospreys and their chicks. There is a \$20 fee (cash only) for this trip. 9 AM. Meeting at Patuxent River Park, 16000 Croom Airport Rd, Upper Marlboro. For reservations contact Mary Maxey, maximom11998@gmail.com.

Saturday, July 1

■ Patuxent/PG. Regular-scheduled walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area. 7:30 AM. Meet at end of Lemon Br Rd off Laurel Bowie Rd just north of Bowie College. No reservations needed. Leader Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Thursday, July 6

■ Patuxent/PG. Regular-scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. ADA-compliant. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Heights. Leader David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net. No reservations required.

Sunday, July 9

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for waterfowl, marsh birds, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Friday, July 14

SUMMER SOCIAL MEETING. Harford. The Social begins with a smorgasbord of food and refreshing drinks, followed by a short business meeting, a formal change of command, and an intriguing presentation by *Dennis and Jean Kirkwood* on the "Endemic Lemurs, Birds, and Wildlife of Madagascar." Reservations are required, and the social is open only to members and their guests. 6:30 PM. Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, 700 Otter Point Rd, Abingdon. Contact Johanne Henrickson, johen24@gmail.com.

Saturday, July 15

■ Patuxent/PG. Regularly scheduled walk at Governor Bridge Park. 7:30 AM. Gov Br Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 310. Leader Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, July 16

■ Harford. Bombay Hook. This beautiful reserve in Delaware with its diverse coastal wetland habitats offers great promise for a variety of shorebirds, water birds, wading species, raptors and songbirds. Because of the trip length and the lack of local eateries, bring a lunch and sufficient drink for the day. 7:30 AM. Meet at the commuter lot near Havre de Grace on Rts. 155/I-95. Leader Russ Kovach, russell.kovach@gmail.com or 443-386-4787.

Thursday, July 20

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regular-scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. ADA-compliant. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Heights. Leader David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net. No reservations required.

Saturday, July 22

■ **Harford.** Hummingbird Banding. Watch from the expansive porch of Diane Jones's home overlooking beautiful gardens as the experienced bird bander, Bruce Peterjohn, skillfully and delicately bands our smallest bird. Contact Diane for details, directions and best viewing times, at 410-404-9180 or diane.v.jones@ssa.gov.

■ **Washington.** Birding along the Final Attack Trail at Antietam Battlefield. Co-sponsored with Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Burnside Bridge parking lot. Contact leader Sandy Sagalkin, sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465.

Saturday, July 29

■ **Baltimore.** Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Baltimore. 8 AM. Meet at the White House in the Park. For questions or to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com.

■ **Harford.** Harford Glen Wildlife Search. The Glen is always beautiful and offers diverse habitat in a compact area. Do not miss the variety of wildlife and avian species found in this Harford County gem. Join Matt Hafner and members of the Susquehannock Wildlife Society in finding and appreciating the herps, insects, mammals and birds that this exceptional site offers. This is a family friendly trip. 9 AM. Join them in the parking lot of the Glen. Contact Matt Hafner, hafner.matt@gmail.com or 410-971-3203, for further information.

Thursday, August 3

■ **Baltimore.** Evening Canoe Birding Trip at Days Cove. Explore the scenic Days Cove

area by canoe and experience the marshlands as they come alive with wildlife activity in the dusk. Possible birds include Purple Martins, Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroats, Blue Grosbeaks, Virginia Rails and both orioles. Individuals must be at least 12 years old to participate in this 2-2.5 mile paddle. This area is not normally open to the public. This event is cancelled in inclement weather. Cost is \$10 per person. Leader Kevin Graff. Pre-registration is required - contact Nancy O'Hara noh529@gmail.com or call 443-286-0922. Participation is limited to 25 and deadline for registering is July 27.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regular-scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. ADA-compliant. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Heights. Leader David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net. No reservations required.

Saturday, August 5

■ **Cecil.** Mount Harmon Lotus Blossom Festival. We will have a table in the main tent at the most beautiful festival in Cecil County. Please stop by to see which birds we're spotting. The day will include a short field trip in the afternoon. 10 AM-4 PM. Mount Harmon Plantation, 600 Mount Harmon Rd, Earleville. Details at mountharmon.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2017-Mount-Harmon-Lotus-Festival-flyer.pdf.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Regular-scheduled walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area. 7:30 AM. Meet at end of Lemon Br Rd off Laurel Bowie Rd just north of Bowie College. No reservations needed. Leader Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Saturday, August 12

■ **Harford.** Butterflies, Dragonflies and Birds. Birds are the main interest of the HBC but there are other beautiful and fascinating creatures that fly. On this trip we certainly do not plan to ignore birds but our focus will be on finding and identifying butterflies and dragonflies. Total beginners to accomplished naturalists are welcome and encouraged to participate. 9 AM. Meet at Swan Harbor Farm Park. Helping with this outing will be Josh

Emm, apistopanchax@gmail.com or 410-937-6790, and Colleen Webster, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577. Weather is critical to this event, so be sure to check with one of the above if the forecast is questionable.

Sunday, August 13

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for waterfowl, marsh birds, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Thursday, August 17

■ Patuxent/PG. Regular-scheduled walk at Lake Artemesia. ADA-compliant. 6 PM. Meet at parking lot at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Heights. Leader David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net. No reservations required.

Saturday, August 19

■ Patuxent/PG. Regularly scheduled walk at Governor Bridge Park. 7:30 AM. Gov Br Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 310. Leader Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Washington. Birding along the Final Attack Trail at Antietam Battlefield. Co-sponsored with Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Burnside Bridge parking lot. Contact leader Sandy Sagalkin, sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465.

Saturday, August 26

■ Baltimore. Patterson Park. Come see what birding action abounds amid the varied habitats of this green oasis in the middle of Baltimore. 8 AM. Meet at the White House in the Park. For questions or to borrow binoculars for the walk, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com.

■ Harford. Shorebird Search. Dennis Kirkwood and Josh Emm lead the search for shorebirds along the shores of Harford County. Beginners looking to improve their

identification skills will find this trip very informative. Experienced birders will have the opportunity to search for rarities. All will enjoy this morning trip. Scopes helpful but not required. 7:30 AM. Meet at the parking lot near the launch ramp of Tydings Park in Havre de Grace. Contact Dennis at newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905.

PICNIC. ■ Washington. Camp Harding Park. Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. 4 PM. Meet at Camp Harding Park, 13029 Pectonville Rd, near Big Pool. Contact Anna Hutzell, amp8185@aol.com or 301-797-8454, for additional information.

Saturday, September 2

■ Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants and Hawk Watch Kickoff. Join us for the traditional kickoff to the annual Turkey Point Hawk Watch, which runs every day from Labor Day weekend through Thanksgiving. Walk through the woods and fields for migrant songbirds, including early warblers. Be prepared for a round-trip hike to the Point, a distance of about two miles. The pace will be leisurely. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are a few hilly sections. Wear comfortable shoes/boots for walking. Bring drinks and/or snacks. Sunscreen and bug spray are strongly recommended. 7 AM (half day.) Meet at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. Leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

■ Howard. Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk. Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies with instruction on their identification. Easy walking on mowed paths around the community garden plots and Elkhorn meadow. We will continue on paved paths and mowed areas near the right-of-way alongside open, flowery wet meadows and brushy hillsides. Bring close-focus binoculars to view nectaring behavior. Canceled if raining or overcast. No facilities. 9:30 AM, 2-3 hours. Meet at Elkhorn Garden Plots, Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Ct. Leader Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com.

■ Patuxent/PG. Regular-scheduled walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area. 7:30 AM. Meet at end of Lemon Br Rd off Laurel Bowie Rd just north of Bowie College. No reservations needed. Leader Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)

■ Harford. Ma & Pa Trail. Stroll a portion of this popular trail, walking from Annie's Playground towards Tollgate Rd in search of early migrants and local residents. The diverse habitats along the way promise a good variety of species. 7 AM. Meet at the parking lot near Annie's Playground on Smith Ln off Connolly Rd in Fallston. The leader is Elaine Beery, ehbeery@yahoo.com or 410-272-6037.

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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos,
or ideas that would be of interest to other
birders.

Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by
July 25, 2017 for the Sep/Oct 2017 issue.

Illustrations pp. 1,11 ©M. Suzanne Probst

**MOS Chapter Web Sites (to be consulted for the
most up-to-date trip/meeting info)**

Allegany/Garrett: westernmdbirding.com/

Anne Arundel: aabirdclub.org/

Baltimore: baltimorebirdclub.org/

Caroline: carolinebirdclubmos.blogspot.com/

Carroll: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/carroll.html

Cecil: cecilbirds.org/

Frederick: frederickbirdclub.org/

Harford: harfordbirdclub.org/

Howard: howardbirds.org/

Kent: kentcounty.com/recreation/birding/birding-club

Montgomery: montgomerybirdclub.org/

Patuxent/PG: pgaudubon.org/

Talbot: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/talbot.html
Tri-County (Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset):
tricountybirdclub.weebly.com/

Washington: washingtoncountybirdclub.webs.com/

YMOS: ymos.org/

The Maryland Yellowthroat

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017



VOL. 37, NO 4

President's Corner

Barbara Johnson

In the not-too-distant past, a birder had to go to considerable trouble to play a recording of a bird call outside. While birders once relied on pishing or call imitations to lure birds into view, now many if not most of us have hundreds of bird sounds in our pockets, instantly retrievable from a cell phone with just a touch or two on a birding app.

Earlier this month I fielded a call from another state's ornithological society. The caller asked if MOS has guidelines which address the subject of playback (playing recorded bird sounds). I told her that MOS uses the American Birding Association's ethical guidelines, which her organization has also adopted.

The ABA's code of ethics states: *"To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming. Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concerns, or is rare in your local area."*

My caller was looking for more detailed and nuanced guidance in this new age of ubiquitous technology. "Playback has become a real problem on our field trips," she told me. "People disagree about when it's ethical to use, or whether it's ethical at all."

This dilemma should be familiar to all birders. A friend observed, "Everyone thinks playback is OK as long as they're the one doing it." We've all been either guilty of or irritated by injudicious pishing or owl calling or playback recordings. I was called on it recently myself, while leading a field trip at the MOS Annual Conference in western Maryland. It was pretty quiet at Swallow Falls, so I played a Screech Owl whinny from my phone. Immediately a female Blackburnian Warbler flew into a tree at eye level, just a few feet from our group. I was so

positively-reinforced and excited that I let the loop run until someone quietly but firmly asked me to turn it off. I was chagrined and even more sheepish when I realized that the warbler was so close not because of the tape but in spite of it. She was collecting web from a tent caterpillar nest, and returned to it over and over, oblivious to us in her zeal.

David Sibley's website features his comprehensive treatment of the subject of playback, easily accessed by an internet search of "the proper use of playback in birding". Sibley lists pros and cons of using playback; a "pro" for instance, is the likelihood that luring a bird outwith a recording from a field's edge can be less disruptive to the birds in the habitat than a big group tromping through. Playback "cons" include everything from confusing birds to confusing birders.

Sibley cites a few studies of the effects of playback recordings on birds. In one, high-ranking male Black-capped Chickadees exposed

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to aggressive playback lost status with their mates and neighbors. But in another study, recordings attracted Black-capped Vireos to suitable but unoccupied habitat, where they reproduced successfully.

I encourage you to read Sibley's piece. While he acknowledges that all birding is somewhat disruptive and that playback technology is here to stay, he outlines etiquette and responsible use; what to do, and what not to do, in order to cause least harm.

In any case, we need to remember that with playback we are plying one of the most powerful tools in a bird's behavioral repertoire.

An incident from my earlier days, when I worked as an elephant keeper at the Baltimore Zoo, gave me cause to wonder what we're saying when we play animals' voices back to them. To celebrate its new elephant exhibit, the zoo hosted a grand opening. The festivities included an African dance troupe performing to music as the three elephants tranquilly chewed hay in their enclosure nearby. When the music reached a section featuring elephant vocalizations-- loud trumpets, grumbles and roars-- our elephants threw up their heads and raced frantically to the center of the yard. Rear ends pressed together, trunks high and ears out, they pinwheeled in panic, searching for the source of the upset. Whatever those recorded elephants were communicating, it clearly wasn't good news.

Just something to ponder.



Next MOS Convention to be held Feb 2-4, 2018 in Ocean City MD

Our next convention will be held on Fri-Sun, Feb 2-4. This mid-winter date is meant to maximize our chances for waterfowl, alcids (Dovekies, Razorbills, etc), gulls, and rarities. While an unusual time for an MOS convention,

these dates duplicate our successful conference in Ocean City, 2012. Our meeting will be hosted at the newly-renovated Holiday Inn on 66th St, reasonably close to the Ocean City inlet and jetty. We plan to have the jetty covered by observers throughout the convention, with any rarities reported to convention headquarters. We plan the usual full program of field trips, research posters, a birding supply store, and several seminars, along with a few innovations. Our Friday post-banquet speaker will be well-known MD ornithologist Dr Peter Marra, Head of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. The annual MOS business meeting will be held after Saturday dinner. Note the change in name, "convention" rather than "conference", as better denoting the spirit of the event.

The customary brochure outlining the schedule of events and prices, and containing the mail-in registration form will be *e-mailed* to members this year, thus saving time and postage, from member's *chapters* by mid-October. (Those members not served by e-mail will receive their brochures directly from MOS by surface mail, as in the past).

Fred Fallon, 2018 Convention Chair



2017 Annual MOS Conference McHenry, MD, May 19-21

The 2017 MOS conference was held at the WISP resort near Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County. This less-visited venue provided some first-time western MD birding for many of the 150 registrants. Previous conferences at WISP were in 2011 and 2002. Registration was smoothly run by Diane Benyus and her team of volunteers. Housing and all events were conveniently held in the same complex. This year's conference pin, featuring a Black-billed Cuckoo, was designed by Ellen Lawler. Mike Bowen again chaired the committee reviewing the pin contest entries.

Peter Hanan did a superb job coordinating the field trips and arranging for expert birders to lead them. The local bird Club, Garrett/Allegany, contributed several leaders and valuable information. Peter (with some help from Fred

Fallon) carefully checked access, distances, and drive times for all the destinations, and supplied maps. Barbara Gordon organized the schedule into sign-up sheets. There were two all-day trips – one to sites in nearby WV, led by Steve Sheffield, and a county lister's trip led by young super-birder Aaron Graham. On Sunday Aaron also led an ad hoc Rarities Round-up trip for target species people may have missed so far. Good birds included an active Merlin nest made known to the trip leader by local birder Chuck Hager; Alder and Willow Flycatchers, Cerulean and Blackburnian Warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Bobolinks were found on several trips.

A highlight of the conference was guest speaker Kevin Dodge, professor of Natural Resources at Garrett College and all-around outdoorsman. His talk showed how the physical features of the county give its birdlife its special character, and went on to describe the differences in vocalizations of related species in the region. This was done with so much humor that he had the audience rolling in the aisles, while always making a sound point. This enthusiastic reception was reflected in the post-conference evaluation forms; everyone remarked on it.

This year researchers were not available to give poster sessions as usual. But into this breach stepped Barbara Dowell and Jane Fallon with a poster presentation on the life and work of the late Chan Robbins, Maryland's premier ornithologist and a constant presence at MOS conferences for over 6 decades. This session also was praised in nearly all of the evaluations.

Of the 4 seminars planned, two had to be cancelled. One of those held was a bird sketching workshop organized by medical illustrator and Patuxent chapter member Ikumi Kayama; the other was a moth watch by Sue Muller and Tim Reichart with black light illumination of a white screen – unfortunately, high winds kept all the moths at bay! We hope to try again at our next warm-weather conference.

We were fortunate in having a rich sampling of birding supplies, optics, and books from the Audubon Naturalist Society's book store, presided over by Matt Matthias. Nearly everyone found something worth purchasing. While the traditional Silent Auction has been discontinued Maryanne Dolan presided over a raffle of 3 sets of 3 life-like glass replicas crafted by Aaron

Kirchhoff of the actual eggs of two species and one fanciful - Yellow Rail, California Thrasher, and "Majestic Longtail", netting MOS \$433.

After Saturday's dinner, MOS held its annual Business Meeting, as provided in our by-laws. Among highlights was Dave Webb's Treasurer's Report, noted for unusual presentation effects and colorful graphics that made an otherwise dull subject come to life. By contrast the election of officers for the coming year was less exciting, all officers – President Barbara Johnson, Vice President Robin Todd, Secretary Maryanne Dolan, and the aforementioned Treasurer, David Webb - being returned for another year. Also, Tom Strikwerda continues as Past President.

The audience was treated to a presentation by Marion Clement, Executive Director of the new Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership, outlining several volunteer projects already underway---monitoring of Bald Eagle nests and Important Bird Areas (IBA's). Certificates of Appreciation (as usual beautifully crafted by Joy Aso) were presented for meritorious service to MOS: to Jim Moore for safely managing MOS' investments; to Dave Webb for navigating the chapters thru the obstacle course erected by IRS against retaining their tax exempt status; to Paul Zucker for his long service as budget chair. Plaques were awarded to Les Roslund, retiring from years of compiling the "Birds of Note" column in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, and to Brent Byers, retiring from a long and active chairmanship of the Sanctuaries Committee. (New chairman Dominic Nucifora was introduced and has hit the ground running.) Also named was your correspondent for agreeing to plan this and future conferences, hopefully in a way worthy of the tradition set by predecessors Tom Strikwerda and Maureen Harvey.

The conference ended at lunch Sunday with Bob Ringler leading the traditional species tally, totaling 151 species. Perhaps the rarest was Carolina Chickadee (!), common with most of us but a first for Garrett County. A Ring-necked Duck was also seasonally unusual.

Conference receipts fell short of expenses by less than \$900, well within historic limits. Expenses were held in check this year except for the cost of facilities, which were after all at a resort. The Evaluation Questionnaire revealed that a majority of members would like to

sometimes hold our conference at a college campus where less luxurious housing and dining facilities are compensated by lower cost, and your Conference Committee will take that sentiment into account in the scheduling of future conferences. An added easing of costs for young birders has been introduced by a half-price discount for birders under 18. Another innovation will be the opening of registration to members of neighboring ornithological societies, e.g. Virginia and Delaware. By this we hope to broaden the reach of our annual conferences.

Fred Fallon, Conference Organizer

Pin Competitions Past and Future

Salisbury based artist Ellen Lawler, who before this year had been the coordinator of the annual conference pin contest, submitted the winning design for the pin provided to all registrants at the May, 2017, MOS Conference at the Wisp Resort in Garrett County. Her portrayal of a Black-billed Cuckoo featured a bird that many conferees were able to see on field trips – and Ellen was in fact one of them. Ikumi Kayama photographed the cloisonné pin shown here.



The 2018 annual MOS Conference will take place in Ocean City the first week of February. Because of the early date of the conference, artists should be alerted that the **deadline for the submission of entries will be October 28, 2017**, not long after this issue of The Yellowthroat reaches MOS members!

Competition rules will be sent to all artists who have submitted entries in recent years and they also will appear on the MOS web site. Briefly:

- The bird must be appropriate for the conference site: Ocean City, Worcester County

- It must contain the phrases "MOS" and "2018"
- The artist must be a member of MOS.
- Entries must be in HARD COPY.

Again, the **deadline for the 2018 Pin Contest is October 28, 2017**, so, artists, start thinking NOW about birds that can be found during the winter at the Maryland coast and adjacent inland areas.

Michael Bowen, Montgomery Bird Club Coordinator, MOS Conference Pin Competition



Thinking of a Bequest? Consider Including the MOS in your Will



One of the very best ways to provide long-term support for the Maryland Ornithological Society is to include the MOS in your estate planning.

The MOS has brought you pleasure over the years. Now it is your chance to increase the scope and reach of the great things the MOS does for birds, bird habitats, public education, our youth programs, and our treasured sanctuaries. Leave a part of your estate to the MOS and your legacy will ensure that the MOS continues as an effective voice for birds and birders, for decades to come. **Your support matters.**

The next time you update your will, be sure to include a bequest to the MOS. If you are unsure about how best to do this, we can provide assistance. You can contact us for further information as follows:

By mail:

Bequests, Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.
c/o Development Chair
4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209
By email: MOSbequests@mdbirds.org
By phone: (301) 221-5654.

The MOS appreciates your generosity!

**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

May 17-- at AABC's Annual Meeting, members elected a new President, *Diane Benyus*, and a new State Director, *Dianne Westbrook*.

June 11--our members braved a HOT day to socialize, bird, and feast on a delicious potluck offering at our AABC Annual Picnic at Jug Bay Wetlands Center. *Dotty Mumford*, longtime membership chair for Friends of Jug Bay, led off with a bird walk. After dinner, an evening walk was very capably led by YMOS members *Hannes Leonard* and *Max Ramey*. A highlight of the picnic was a native plant swap, with plants dug, donated, and exchanged by AABC gardeners.

July 1--Another HOT day! AABC members *Dominic Nucifora* (new MOS Sanctuary Chair), *Pete Bungay*, *Kevin Smith* and *Barbara Johnson* teamed with Talbot County Bird Club members *Jan Reese*, *Terry Allen* and *Jeff Effinger* at Mill Creek Sanctuary in Talbot County to mark the borders of the recently-surveyed sanctuary with "No Trespassing" signs and white paint blazes on boundary trees. Miraculously, no ticks were seen! *Barbara Johnson*

BALTIMORE COUNTY

For the last 10 years a collection of mounted birds co-owned by the Baltimore chapter and MOS has been exhibited in the Carriage House at Cylburn Arboretum. The Carriage House is now closed for a badly needed renovation, and most of the birds are in storage. However, the two Bald Eagles in the collection (one adult, one immature) are on display at the brand-new Lake Roland Nature Center, which opened in the Fall of 2016. Feel free to visit them Tuesday through Sunday 9 am-5 pm.

Peter Lev and three family members took a full day birding trip to the Albufera marshes south of Valencia, Spain in March. Their guide was Virgilio Beltran—a perfect name because Virgil was Dante's guide in *The Divine Comedy*. Virgilio was recommended by chapter member *Simon Best*. Birding highlights of the trip were Garganey, Audouin's Gull, Red-legged Partridge and Blue Rock-Thrush. The non-birding highlight was a paella lunch in the town of Cullera. The Albufera is actually the birthplace of paella, now a world-famous rice dish. We passed thousands of acres of rice cultivation on our trip.

Peter Lev

CAROLINE COUNTY

The Caroline County Chapter mourns the loss of *Frank D. Zeigler Jr.*, who passed away on June 29, 2017 at the age of 94. *Frank*, along with his wife, *Joyce* was a long time member, attending meetings and supporting a variety of environmental projects. More than once the *Zeiglers* opened up their home for special Bird Club dinners. *Debby Bennett*

CARROLL COUNTY

Carroll County, Maryland. Sixty-two entries for a youth bird art contest and exhibit. Well over 100 folks at the opening reception at Bear Branch Nature Center. More than \$300 raised from donated artworks for Bear Branch. Children asking *Bob Ringler* questions about birds. Really?

Yes, really. Our second (annual?) Youth Art Contest "Wild About Birds- Beauty in Carroll's Backyards" was a huge success. It was so good to see what the youth of Carroll County can accomplish and get to meet them as well as their

families and art teachers. The opening reception on April 22nd- Earth Day itself was a lot of fun. The refreshment table was groaning under the weight of the refreshments and the room got so full we were worried the fire marshal was going to appear.

A distinguished panel of seven judges had spent over 3 hours the previous day making decisions. Awards were given out in four age groups for first, second, and third place. Four special awards were given out as well.

Many thanks to the members of the Bird Club who were instrumental in making this such a success. The Club pitched together getting the word out, donating prizes, hanging artwork, providing refreshments for the opening reception, and handling the silent auction to benefit Bear Branch. Bowman's Home and Gardens generously donated prizes and took part in judging.

Special thanks to *Ikumi Kayama* who taught the bird drawing class to participants on April 30th at the Eldersburg Library. This class was part of the first-place prizes but was open to other entrants as well as adults. Fourteen participants spent the afternoon learning the structure of a bird's body and being guided through the process by Ikumi. From the high level of concentration in the room, the class was well received. The exhibit will remain until May 19th. *Mary Jewell*

CECIL COUNTY

The Bird Club has been active in the community service area over the summer months. Cecil Bird Club worked with staff at Elk Neck State Park back in the spring to install Bluebird nest boxes in the meadow area where the club holds its annual Hawk Watch. Throughout the spring and summer Club member and treasurer *Paula Conoscenti* has stepped forward and volunteered to monitor these boxes. Unfortunately the park did not keep up their end of the bargain and failed to mow, thus preventing access to the boxes on a regular basis. At the other end of the county *Ken Drier* continues to monitor the nest boxes at the Woodlawn Reserve. This year Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, House Wrens and Carolina Chickadees have all been successful breeders. The hope is to increase the number of boxes next year. At the same site, Cecil Bird Club member *David Francis*

stepped forward to help perform an invasive plant survey for reserve manager Sarel Cousins.

The annual Mount Harmon Plantation Lotus Festival will soon be upon us. For the past six years or so the club has set up their informational table at this event. This year will be no different with *Ken Drier* holding down the fort on August 5th.

Lastly, the county is trying to buy a bankrupted golf course just south of Elkton to turn it into a new park. The club has been in contact with the planning commission for this new project to help influence the design. There is also a nice section of wetlands that the club would like to see remain intact. White-winged Crossbills have been sighted on this property in past winters. This rounds out the local service activity that the Cecil Bird Club has been performing most recently.

Moving to members on the road. Talk about moving. Members *Theda* and *Warren Ellis* traveled to Tucson last winter and rented a condo/ house. They liked it so much they bought a place there. We all know of the great birding in southern Arizona so we expect to hear more from them next winter as they settle in becoming snowbirds. Currently the club's president *Maryanne Dolan* is vacationing for two weeks on Cape Cod. Not too shabby indeed. She should have some tales to tell upon her return. *Kim* and *Ken Drier* are off to North Dakota and Theodore Roosevelt National Park next week. Hoping to score a few life birds while out on the prairie like the Sharp-tailed Grouse and the Brewer's Sparrow. This will be Kim's 49th state leaving only Alabama in her race to finally catch up to Ken. Happy birding from Cecil County.

Ken Drier

HARFORD COUNTY

Following *Dave Ziolkowski's* advice to "Head West", *Jean Wheeler* and *Jane Scocca* of HBC traveled to Arizona in April. After landing in Phoenix they headed north to the Grand Canyon for three days and nights where they sighted a California Condor gliding at eye level over the canyon at Yaki Point. It was a life bird for both (and a life national park for Jane). Other sightings included numerous American Ravens, Western Bluebirds, Mountain Chickadees, Violet-

green Swallows, Black-throated Gray Warblers, Spotted Towhees, Stellar's Jays, Rock Wren, Red-shafted Flickers, Brewer's Blackbirds and Brewer's Sparrows.

They then headed for Tucson with an overnight stay at Sedona where they encountered Lazuli Buntings and Eurasian Collared Doves. In Tucson they joined with six other women for a tour of southeastern Arizona led by Mark Pretti of Mark Pretti Nature Tours. Waiting for the tour pick up they birded the Hyatt parking lot and were rewarded with sightings of a Green-tailed Towhee, White-winged Dove, Wilson's Warbler, Verdin, Hooded Oriole, Yellow Warbler, plus Cardinals, House Finches, and Mourning Doves. (Is it a mistaken perception or are Cardinals in Arizona a much brighter red and more robust bird than our eastern ones?)

The southeast corner of Arizona has 4 overlapping biospheres: the Rocky Mountains to the north, Sierra Madres to the south, Sonoran desert to the west and Chihuahuan desert to the east, and so offers a rich and widely diverse array of bird life along with plants and other animal life. Some of our bird sightings included Bell's, Plumbeous, and Warbling Vireos, Abert's Towhee, Gila, Ladder-backed and Acorn Woodpeckers, Broad-billed, Black-chinned, Violet-crowned, Broad-tailed, Anna's, Magnificent and Lucifer Hummingbirds. That last one was a life bird for Jean. Strong winds at Fort Huachaca forced the closing of the canyon because of the threat of wildfire so we did not go in search of the Elegant Trogon, but while waiting on the parking lot we were treated to great views of the Black-throated Sparrow, Western Kingbird and a pair of Canyon Towhees. The food and accommodations throughout our tour were very fine, especially three nights at two charming B&B's where the breakfasts were amazing.

Jane Scoca

Bird Hide at Harford Glen

After a birding trip to South Africa, *Amanda Koss* returned home with an idea for Harford Glen, the county's Environmental Education Center and the children it serves. Amanda, an Environmental Education teacher, bird bander, and Vice-president of the HBC had experienced "Bird Hides" on her trip. With her usual enthusiasm and persistence, she successfully procured a grant from Bluegrass Materials Company, a local aggregate producer.

The grant covered the design of the custom bird hide, the site preparation, off-site construction in Lancaster, PA, and delivery and placement of the building onsite. Additionally, it covered 16 pairs of binoculars for students while in the bird hide. The hide is handicapped accessible and students will observe and identify birds from the hide as part of their bird studies during their time at Harford Glen. At a Ribbon-cutting ceremony in March, Chad Shrodes, Harford County Councilman, awarded *Amanda* a legislative citation from the council for her "hard work and extended effort in making the bird hide idea become a reality for the environmental education center."



Photo: *Harford Glen Bird Hide* being enjoyed by students.

I (*Jean Wheeler*) traveled with Naturalist Journeys to Austria and Hungary for Birds, Wildlife, Landscapes & Culture. It was a very relaxing and enjoyable trip led by one of the world's Woodpecker specialists, Gerard Gorman. I am partial to mountains, and the alpine foothills and high Alps just southwest of Vienna were a great starting point. Two special finds were a Common Rosefinch and a Tengmalm's Owl (better known as Boreal Owl this side of the Atlantic) peeking out of a woodpecker hole. Next we travelled east into Hungary to explore the Austro-Hungarian border. The wetlands and steppe habitats are birdy protected areas encompassing two national parks, one in each country. We took time out from birding to tour Eszterhazy Palace at Fertod. This 18th century palace is Hungary's Versailles. The area was full of birds including Syrian Woodpecker, Golden Oriole, and Cuckoo. After 3 days we drove south and east of Budapest to Kiskunsag National Park on the Great Hungarian Plain. This Park is a

UNESCO biosphere reserve that is a refuge for tens of thousands of migratory birds. In addition to wetlands, and marshes there is lowland grazing land known as puszta. It was here we spotted 14 Great Bustard. Other special sightings were European Roller, Bee Eater, nesting Red-footed Falcon, and Saker Falcon. Finally, we headed to the northeast and the Bukk Hills an area noted for its wine. I extended my trip with 3 nights in Budapest, a beautiful and interesting city. I had 140 species with 13 life birds.

Jean Wheeler

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

It's been almost 9 years since *Tom Marko*, our world citizen, left the MBC area, but he still keeps in touch to make us envious! Tom, currently residing in Vicenza, Italy, recently returned from a 16-day birding tour in Mongolia. Birds were plentiful, he writes, with 122 species observed to include 37 lifers. He reports that Mongolia was spectacular - vast steppes, rugged mountains, empty deserts and a land sparsely populated by a nomadic people still raising sheep, goats, cows, horses, camels & musk ox as they have for generations - a true wilderness experience. Most roadways travelled on were nothing more than tire tracks through the barren countryside. Avian highlights, to name a few, included Arctic Loon, Bar-headed Goose, Lammergeier, Steppe Eagle, Demoiselle Crane, Oriental Plover, Pallas's Gull & Sandgrouse, Eurasian Eagle-Owl, Saker Falcon, Mongolian Ground-Jay, Lark & Finch, Güldenstädt's Redstart, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Citrine Wagtail, Saxual Sparrow & Long-Tailed Rosefinch. Mongolia was Tom's 63rd country visited.

Bruce Beehler, prolific author and northwoods enthusiast, sent this brief report: "Spent a week at Heart Lake in the Adirondacks. Just returned on Saturday (July 15). Highlights: encountered singing Bicknell's, Swainson's, and Hermit Thrushes; called in an adult Northern Saw-whet Owl; thirteen species of wood warblers. Wonderful old growth forest tracts just a short walk from my campsite. Head's up: the Adirondacks is closer than you think!"

Gail Mackiernan and *Barry Cooper* took a three-week trip to Sichuan, China, in June with two friends. The trip included a short hop up to

Shaanxi Province for the critically-endangered Crested Ibis, as well as 3-4 days on the Sichuan portion of the Tibetan Plateau. "We used Roland Ziegler, of West Sichuan Tours, as a guide - he is excellent and as a bonus, speaks and reads Mandarin fluently.

The time of year we went, due to Roland's previous commitments, was probably not 100% ideal - being a bit late for migrants and some birds were not singing - but nevertheless we recorded just short of 300 species including 13 gallinaceous species, plus two heard only. Since pheasants and kin were among the top targets, this was satisfying although not all views were close - and some males had molted their long tails! Temminck's Tragopan and Tibetan Snowcock were the "chicken" highlights. We also saw 9 species of parrotbill, 5 owls including mega-views of the rare Pere David's, and some nice babblers, robins and other passerines such as the electric-blue Grandala and the huge Tibetan Lark. One major target was Przevalski's Pinktail, a unique finch-like bird now in its own family. Luckily we saw 5 of them, albeit after a long slog. Still sorting out the various warbler splits! The groups also enjoyed a number of mammals, including close-ups of Blue Sheep, Goral and several species of endearing Pikas."



Photo: Przevalski's Pinktail by Roland Ziegler

There is a nice profile of long-time MBC member *Daphne Gemmill* in the May 2017

American Birding Association' *Birder's Guide to Conservation* entitled *Daphne Gemmill: Vieques Bird Lady*. "On Vieques Island, about eight miles off the east coast of the main island of Puerto Rico, they call Daphne Gemmill the "Vieques Bird Lady." And no wonder -- she is a recognized expert on the island's birds, having surveyed them for 34 consecutive years. It started in 1983, when a friend's mother who had a house on Vieques invited her to visit, with the hope that Gemmill would find an endangered species so the island's undeveloped habitat could be protected. What she found was lots of birds, and she started counting them all. In 2002 the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge was created. Today, Gemmill's surveys are even more important as the habitat is threatened by those who want to sell off public lands" *Chris Wright*

TRI-COUNTY

Tri-County member *Ellen Lawler* joined three members of the Allegany/Garrett chapter, *Mary Huebner* and *Bill and Debbie Devlin* on a trip to British Columbia, Yukon and Alaska in early June. The Holland America tour was not a birding trip, but we were able to see some terrific birds and mammals on the trip. We boarded a Holland America cruise ship in Vancouver and spent three days on the ship, sailing along the inside passage. Vancouver harbor and the cruise portion of the trip brought sightings of Pelagic Cormorants, Glaucous-winged Gulls, Northwestern Crows, Sooty Shearwaters, Pacific Loons, a single Marbled Murrelet and humpback whales, as well as spectacular scenery. Mary and Ellen had nice looks at a lovely Varied Thrush along the trail on top of Mt. Roberts during a stop in Juneau. From Skagway, the tour continued on land, following the path of the Stampeders in the 1898 Gold Rush with stops at Whitehorse and Dawson City in the Yukon Territory. Birds observed in the Yukon included Gray Jays, Alder Flycatchers, Ravens, White-crowned Sparrows and Pine Siskins.

A short flight from Dawson City to Fairbanks followed by a bus ride brought us to the amazing Denali National Park. We were extremely lucky to have great views of Denali;

only 30% of park visitors get to see the "Great One" which is usually shrouded in clouds. In addition, we were very successful in seeing the big mammals of the park on the Tundra Wilderness Tour with great looks at Grizzly bears, Caribou, Dall Sheep and Moose. We even had a sighting of a Gray Wolf which is less likely. The common small mammals we saw were Snowshoe hares and Arctic ground squirrels. Although we didn't see many birds that day, we did have number of good looks at Willow Ptarmigan from the bus. A comfortable train ride from Denali to Anchorage produced more spectacular scenery and good looks at more Moose, a Golden eagle in flight and numerous Trumpeter swans nesting on ponds along the way. The trip ended in Anchorage where Mary and Ellen enjoyed a great morning bird walk along Cook Inlet and West Chester Lagoon with nesting Mew gulls and Arctic terns, as well as Black-billed magpies, a Red-necked grebe and Sandhill cranes. The trip was very well organized by Holland America; the lodgings and transportation were all very comfortable and everything went like clockwork – a highly recommended tour. *Ellen Lawler*



Making the Most of Our Sanctuaries

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Dominic Nucifora and I am a member of the Anne Arundel Bird Club and the current Sanctuary Committee Chair for the MOS. My wife, Liz, and I started birding four years ago and nothing has been the same since. Like many of you, we were captivated first by their beautiful breeding plumage, then intrigued by their unique behaviors and before we knew it, we were obsessed with birds. Liz and I spent all our money on binoculars, park passes and mosquito repellent and all our free time creeping through marshlands and driving around wildlife loops.

The more I poured over my field guides, however, the more I noticed words like "declining" and "endangered." A sense of responsibility swept over me and I felt compelled to go to work for these winged wonders. When I

was offered the position of Sanctuary Committee Chair, I knew that this was a way for me to do just that. At first, I was nervous about heading up a committee about which I knew so little. Lucky for me, I joined a group of dedicated individuals who possess not only vast amounts of knowledge about our sanctuaries but a great deal of patience while I learned about their history.

The last few months have been a whirlwind of activity. The Sanctuary Committee has been hard at work not only promoting the properties and encouraging members to visit but putting in hours on several big projects. Here's a brief overview of what has been done and what is coming down the pike:

Sanctuary Presentation

As you may recall, Marcia Watson submitted an article in the last issue of *The Yellowthroat* about MOS's nine bird sanctuaries. For many of you, this might have been the first time you were made aware of these assets. Marcia has been developing a presentation all about the past, present and future of our sanctuaries. The presentation uses photos and other materials contributed by MOS members throughout the state, and draws on *Maryland Birdlife* articles to trace the history of the sanctuary program. This presentation will be available for download starting in October of this year via a link on the MOS website. The presentation will be accompanied by a suggested script, so that MOS chapters – as well as individuals – can use it on a self-serve basis.

Mill Creek Sanctuary Boundary Survey

Under the guidance of Jan Reese (Talbot County chapter), a professional surveyor was hired to conduct a boundary survey of the property. As soon as this project was completed in June, Jan ordered hundreds of banners that would mark the many boundaries at the sanctuary. The day the materials arrived, Jan proposed that we organize some volunteers and place the banners immediately. Despite the hot July weather, several volunteers from Talbot and Anne Arundel County chapters gave up a Saturday to hike through tick-infested woods and hang the banners and paint blazes at precise locations. As an added bonus, we discovered Talbot County's first documented Humpbacked

Orb Weaver spider. It took a liking to Jan and hitched a ride on his shirt for a couple of miles.

eBird Hotspots

Until recently, there were only four MOS sanctuaries marked as Hotspots on eBird. With the help of Hotspot Reviewer Mike Bowen, all nine sanctuaries now appear on eBird. I encourage all of you not only to visit and bird these sanctuaries but to log your findings on eBird. To find the eBird hotspots for the sanctuaries, simply go to the "Explore Hotspots" screen at <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspots>, type "MOS Sanctuary" in the hotspot name box at the top left, and eBird will display the names of all nine sanctuaries in a drop-down box. Click on any sanctuary in the drop-down box to view the sanctuary location on a map, along with a box providing access to sanctuary details such as recent checklists and species bar charts.

Social Media Blitz

Liz Nucifora has designed a Facebook page for our sanctuaries. On it, we have posted project updates and pictures of the properties and some of the birds that enjoy them. Visit www.Facebook.com/Maryland.Sanctuaries. In an attempt to reach out to our younger, more tech-savvy members, Liz also has created an Instagram account. To see pictures of the sanctuaries that our members have taken, or to share your own, use the hashtag #MOSsanctuaries.

UAV project

To better serve our sanctuaries and the birds that rely on them, we're taking to the sky! Several groups have pioneered the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or drones, for wildlife studies in recent years. After conducting much research, I have concluded that this is a safe and cost-effective way to aid in monitoring birds that migrate through and reside within our sanctuaries. In fact, MOS has an opportunity to contribute to the growing scientific literature on the use of drones in bird and habitat studies

Having access to real-time aerial views of our properties comes with several other benefits. For example, we can monitor sea-level rise at our waterfront properties, plot out the best locations for new trails, locate pockets of invasive flora and take beautiful video of our sanctuaries for promotional purposes. Thanks to donations from

bird-lovers and the power of the Internet, we were able to raise the necessary funds to purchase a drone in just five days! We hope to have this program up and running (or flying) by the time you read this.

Looking Forward

Your Sanctuary Committee is always busy improving these wonderful places. We hope that you will venture out and explore a sanctuary near you soon. Please visit the MOS website or email me at d.nucifora@yahoo.com for more information.

Dominic Nucifora
Sanctuary Committee Chair



Project to Post All Yellowthroat Newsletters On-Line

MOS has been publishing the Yellowthroat bi-monthly newsletters since 1980, first as hardcopy only and more recently as both softcopy (PDF files) and hardcopy sent to members. Recently, Harvard's Biodiversity Heritage Library offered to host all issues of Yellowthroat if we can provide them with files of scanned issues. Issues since November 2004 are available on-line at our website as PDF files and therefore easy to supply. Issues prior to that will be more difficult to collect. I've been compiling a list and found PDF versions of some early issues but can use additional help. First, if you have text-mode PDF files of Volumes 1 - 21 or Volume 24 please send them to me at tstrik@verizon.net ('text-mode' are files in which you can select individual words). Second, if you have a good quality scanner and old issues in this range, and some time, please consider helping with this project. Contact me with a list of prior issues you have and I'll check it against the master list. Scanning should be done at 400-600 ppi; black and white or greyscale is fine.

Tom Strikwerda

MOS Past President



Looking For Volunteers!

***Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia* BOOK PROJECT**

Johns Hopkins University Press is publishing in 2018 a new book on birds of the region. The MOS serves as institutional sponsor for this project. As the book's author, I am looking for MOS members willing to volunteer to critically read and comment upon sections of the current draft of this book, prior to publication. You can make a contribution to this important project by reviewing and critiquing one or more chapters of the book for the author. Your contributions will be acknowledged in the book. If you are interested in helping out, please email me at: brucembeehler@gmail.com.

Bruce Beehler, Research Associate
National Museum of Natural History
The Smithsonian Institution



Beyond Birding: Insect attacks on leaves and defensive mechanisms

By Colin Rees, Anne Arundel

At this time of the year we become conscious of insects invading our homes and their buzzing and murmuring in trees and other vegetation. Countless insects live on, in and around trees, many are harmless; others can inflict great damage, sometimes leading to death. We see holes in leaves done by chewing insects, tunneling in roots, stem/trunk, twigs and leaves done by boring insects and damage to twigs and leaves done by sucking insects.

You might conclude that plants are entirely passive but this is far from the case for they are good at sensing a herbivore. For example, studies on thale grass (an invasive from Eurasia) have shown that it can pick up vibrations from feeding insects and boost bitter-tasting defensive chemicals to ward them off. Appel and Cocroft (Oecologia, 175:1257-66, 2014) found that the plant not only detects feeding vibrations - it responds selectively to them. They then posed the question: how does the plant raise the alarm? A further study by Mousavi et al (Nature Protocols 9: 1997-2004, 2014), found that when a leaf is cut or wounded, the plant uses electricity to buzz a warning to other parts of the plant. He went on to identify that two particular genes were needed to initiate the buzz and that they were closely related to genes in synapses of the human nervous system.

Farmer's guess is that two systems are involved in responding to herbivory: phloem (transporting sugars) and xylem (transporting water and minerals) working together somehow to convey electrical signals.

Defensive mechanisms against herbivores are proving wide-ranging and highly dynamic (War, A.R, et al, Plant and Signaling Behavior 7: 1306-20, 2012). They involve structural barriers, toxic chemicals, and attraction of natural enemies of the target pests. Structural traits such as leaf surface wax, thorns or trichomes and cell wall thickness form the first physical barrier to feeding by herbivores. Biochemical mechanisms involve defensive compounds that are stored as inactive forms or induced in response to plant damage, and adversely affect feeding, growth, and survival of herbivores. In parallel, some plants also release volatile organic compounds that attract the natural enemies of the herbivores. These strategies either act independently or in conjunction with each other. The production of volatiles and secretion of extra floral nectar facilitate the interactions of plants with natural enemies of insect pests, such as parasitoids or predators, and actively reduce the numbers of feeding herbivores.



Maryland Fall Count 2017

The annual Fall Seasonal Count sponsored by MOS will be held on the 3rd weekend of September in the Maryland-DC area. The MOS Board has left the choice of whether the count will be on Saturday the 16th or Sunday the 17th to local chapters and coordinators. In areas without an identified coordinator, individual parties submit their results directly to the statewide coordinator for inclusion.

Anyone can participate, no matter your skill level. Every pair of eyes helps, and it can be a great learning experience and a lot of fun. The results of the count will appear in an article in the Spring 2018 issue of Maryland Birdlife.

The guidelines for this count are the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Local coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation for unusual sightings. A new checklist compilation form (AOU Supplement order 57) is available on the MOS website, in the "Species Counts" section: <http://www.mdbirds.org/counts/fall/fallcounts.html>. The list includes the species one would expect to find in Maryland during this season. Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are noted with asterisks, and all write-ins require full details.

Check the Yellowthroat Calendar where the Fall Counts, dates, and compilers that were confirmed by the calendar deadline are listed. A list of the county coordinators can also be accessed on the MOS website link above. Anyone already organizing a count that is not included or interested in volunteering as a coordinator for another county currently without a coordinator are encouraged to contact the state coordinator.

Deadline for submitting completed reports to your county/chapter coordinator is

October 1, 2017. County compilers are asked to submit compilations to the state coordinator by October 15.

If you don't have web access or you are interested in counting in a county without a coordinator, you can contact the state-wide Fall Count Coordinator directly. Individual parties or other groups (e.g. Hawk Watch sites, field trips) who count in areas without a coordinator, but have data for the count period, are asked to submit their data along with details on what area was covered, participants, and coverage statistics directly to the state Fall Count Coordinator by October 15.

Please plan to join the fun and have a great day birding!

Chuck Stirrat,
MOS Fall Count Coordinator
13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD
21042-1155
Home phone: 410-531-2417
E-mail: stirrbird@outlook.com



MOS Scholarships

Calling all teachers and naturalists involved with environmental education and conservation! The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) annually awards scholarships to the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, Maine, for people involved in these fields. Each award covers the cost of tuition, room, and board for an intensive five or six-day course of study and instruction in ornithology, ecology, conservation, and natural history. Travel arrangements and costs are the recipient's responsibility.

The Hog Island Audubon Camps are known for their high levels of instruction by top-notch educators such as Pete Dunne, Scott Weidensaul and Steve Kress.

Tentative dates for the courses offered for 2018 scholarships will be:

Joy of Birding: June 3 - 8

Field Ornithology: June 17 - 22

Raptor Rapture: July 8 - 13

Sharing Nature: an Educator's Week: July 15 - 20

For details regarding the application process, please check the MOS web site:

www.mdbirds.org and click on "Education."

Anna Urciolo
Chair, Scholarship Committee



2017 World Series of Birding Results Summary

YMOS (Youth Division, Maryland Ornithological Society), left its mark in New Jersey at the recent World Series of Birding. Six Maryland teams, comprised of 24 students from Garrett County to the Eastern Shore, scouted New Jersey the week prior to the event, and competed in the 24-hour event on May 6. At the stroke of midnight on the Big Day, teams were in place in staked-out nighttime locations, and 24 hours later all had checked in at the finish line.

The YMOS Marsh Gigglers, captained by Daniel Irons, topped all youth teams in the competition with a whopping total of 201 species and were beaten by only 1 adult team, the Cornell Redhead team, ably headed up by former YMOS member Alex Wiebe. Our Carbon Free Youth Team, captained by Eli Anders, also won their category with a total of 127 species found using only bicycle and foot power, beating last year's winning team by 23 species. Our high school teams placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in their division and the middle school teams, with mostly beginners, placed 2nd and 3rd. Even more impressive than the scores was the exemplary behavior exhibited by all as teams worked beautifully together and shared scouting information with all. The students were supported by an army of parents and coaches, including Stacy Epperson, Jim Brighton, and George

Radcliffe. Money raised by the March Birdathon made the student participation possible.

George Radcliffe, YMOS Coordinator



YMOS Marsh Giggler World Series of Birding 2017 Report

By Joshua Heiser

The World Series of Birding took place this year on Saturday, May 6. The members of our WSB team, the YMOS Marsh Giggler, were Daniel and Jonathan Irons of Queen Anne's County, and Patrick Newcombe and myself of Montgomery County.

Our Big Day started Friday night in Sussex, New Jersey, when we drove south to Great Swamp NWR. We arrived there around 10:45 p.m. to scout a Least Bittern spot the Cornell Redheads had shared with us. When midnight arrived, we immediately tallied Virginia Rail, and, a few minutes later, had whistled up an Eastern Screech Owl. We stayed on the loop trail for about an hour, hearing such birds as American Bittern, American Coot, American Woodcock, and Common Gallinule. The Least Bittern obliged when we stopped by, and we were driving back up north by 1:45 am with 12 good species on our list.

The northern marshes were tough, just like they had been during scouting. After 40 minutes of nothing at Owen's Station marsh, we drove to Kelly Rd., which had been the most productive of our northern nighttime spots. We heard a Great Horned Owl right away, and picked out the nocturnal flight calls of Solitary Sandpiper, Savannah Sparrow, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. A Long-eared Owl called just before we left.

We reached our first stop in the grasslands, Beemer Rd., at 4:50 a.m. A Ring-necked Pheasant had been reported reliably calling at that spot for the past two days, but, unfortunately, it wasn't calling Saturday. We then zipped up to Quarry Rd., where, in less than three minutes, we added our scouted

Grasshopper Sparrow and Brown Thrasher in addition to a surprise Eastern Kingbird and Least Flycatcher. Back at Beemer, we scanned the pond for Wood Duck and Wilson's Snipe, but instead heard Killdeer and Wild Turkey. On our way out, we drove down Unionville Rd., picking up Wood Duck, White-crowned Sparrow, and Green Heron along the way.

We made a 30-second stop at High Point Country Inn to pick up our backup driver, Mr. Newcombe, and zoomed over to the AT&T tower where a pair of Common Ravens was nesting. Dense fog prevented us from seeing the nest, but the Ravens were vocalizing. After spending a couple minutes there, we drove over to Sawmill Rd., where Ruffed Grouse was possible. Grouse had been really quiet this year, and the Big Day was no exception. We missed Ruffed Grouse at Sawmill, but added some good migrants and breeders in the meantime, such as Cerulean Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

We raced through Ridge Rd in record time, finding all of our target breeders fairly easily. The scouted Nashville Warblers were a nice find on the big day. At the Black Spruce Bog along Ridge Rd., we added Canada Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, and Northern Waterthrush. We waited a couple of minutes there for Purple Finch, and finally, Jonathan and I heard one calling back in the woods. Next, we hit Stokes State Forest, where we picked up Cedar Waxwing, Pine Warbler, Hermit Thrush and Hooded Warbler. On our way out, Patrick spotted a Red-shouldered Hawk, a great find, as we had not staked out any hawk nests this year.

Next up was Layton Grasslands, where we had seen Bobolink and Eastern Bluebird during scouting. Neither disappointed, and a Northern Flicker, Warbling Vireo, and Horned Lark were all pleasant surprises. We continued to Van Auken Rd., our only spot for Brown Creeper. The Creepers hadn't been very vocal for the past two days, but thankfully we heard one at our first pull-off. On leaving, we swung by Dingmans Ferry Bridge, and picked out a Common Merganser and Northern Rough-winged Swallows over the Delaware River. We then drove down to Bluett Tract, where Red-breasted Nuthatches were nesting. After five minutes of pishing and yanking, we finally persuaded one to call.

At this point, it was around 8:15 a.m., and we were ahead of schedule and we decided

to head a little further south to Walpack Cemetery. Crossing the stream leading to the cemetery, a Belted Kingfisher flew right over our car, and, at the cemetery itself, we heard a Prairie Warbler and a first of the season Cape May Warbler. Time still was not an issue, so we decided to continue driving to Pompey Rd., where we snagged the Worm-eating Warbler, and then hightailed it to our last northern spot, Culver's Lake.

At Culver's, we added Common Loon and Yellow-rumped Warbler, and found three Red-breasted Mergansers perched on a rock near the shore as we were driving out. Our next stop was Boonton Reservoir in Morris County, where there was a breeding colony of Cliff Swallows. Our last stop before the south was Garret Mountain, and we picked up six new species there, four of which (Blackpoll Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Swainson's Thrush) we never found anywhere else. We completed Garret Mountain in 25 minutes, and were on the road to Brigantine by 10:30 a.m.

We pulled into Brigantine at 12:15 p.m., and completed the Wildlife Dr in about an hour, picking up such species as Gull-billed Tern, Black Skimmer, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, Whimbrel, and Stilt Sandpiper. Highlights included two injured Snow Geese wandering on the side of the road, and a Peregrine Falcon that flew into its nest as we left.

Next, we cut across the state to Belleplain forest, where we hoped to tally most of our southern songbirds. Our first target bird was Summer Tanager. We tried several spots for them, but the midday sun and heat had quieted them. We fared better with warblers, hearing both Yellow-throated and Prothonotary at the spots we checked. Along the way, we also added White-eyed Vireo and Hairy Woodpecker, a species we had missed up north.

Heislerville, with its diverse array of shorebirds, was next. After scanning the heron rookery on the right for Little and Cattle Egrets, I found a Red-necked Phalarope swimming among the shorebirds in the center impoundment. In addition to the phalarope, we also picked up Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone. Our next two stops were some nearby marshes: Stipson Island Rd. and Jakes Landing. At Stipson Island, we checked off Northern Harrier, and at Jakes Landing, we found Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrows in a couple of minutes. Having located

all of our target species in the area, we headed south to Reed's beach for our first taste of ocean birds.

We arrived at Reed's Beach at around 3:30 p.m. Notable finds included Purple Sandpipers, Black Scotters, Red Knots, and two Parasitic Jaegers Daniel noticed flying way out over the bay. We cut across to Stone Harbor. We also added Little Blue and Tricolored Heron on the drive over there, two really good species that saved us an extra stop. At Stone Harbor, we picked out a Piping Plover and a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the beach, and added Least Tern and Northern Gannet with a quick ocean scan.

Back on the road towards Cape May, Daniel spotted an American Kestrel perched right over the road, an incredible species given that none had been found at all in the south during scouting. Once on Cape Island, we swung by the TNC preserve for Yellow-breasted Chat and then headed to Higbee Beach for Blue Grosbeak. Finding a grosbeak proved difficult, but Daniel and Patrick finally heard one chipping as we raced back to the car. At the Concrete Ship, we picked up the resident Iceland Gull, and glimpsed a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Michael O'Brien's feeders. We did a few more seawatches at St. Peters and Coral Avenue, but only cleaned up Parasitic Jaeger.

At Cape May State Park, we found our stakeout American Wigeon in the back pool where we had scouted it, then landed a couple of Common Terns and a surprise Brown Pelican at the seawatch. As we jogged back, Mr. Irons was out of the car, motioning us to quicken our pace. Apparently during the five minutes we were gone, a Northern Bobwhite had been calling incessantly. After spending another five minutes listening for it, Jonathan noticed the Bobwhite crossing the road a couple of yards away. Driving out of Cape May, we tallied our list, and found that we were already at 194 species! 200 was within reach!

Our next stop was Sunset Lake, where we had seen Bufflehead and Horned Grebes during scouting. We found the Bufflehead in the exact same spot, and Jonathan picked out a distant Red-throated Loon. We drove to another vantage point, and scoped two Horned Grebes at the far right end of the lake. We left Sunset Lake with three new species, a really good number for one location this late in the day.

By this time, the sun was setting, and we wanted to be back in the Meadows by dusk for Common Nighthawk and other surprises. We spotted Nighthawks while driving past the Beanery, but found nothing new at the Meadows. Swinging over to Hidden Valley, we picked up Chuck-will's-widow at our first pull-off. We headed up to Jake's Landing to try for Eastern Whip-poor-will, but by the time we arrived, darkness had fallen and the Whips weren't calling. Just as we were about ready to leave, we received a text on the telegram app saying a Whip-poor-will had just been calling from Sunset Bridge, two minutes away. We sped over there, and in five minutes, Daniel had whistled up a Whip-poor-will for bird number 200!

On our way back to Cape May, we stopped by the Yellow-crowned Night-heron colony outside the Wawa in Wildwood, and found one illuminated by the streetlights.

At 11:30 p.m., we submitted our list. We finished with 201 species, breaking our goal of 200. Our total was enough to win the youth division, and second only to the Cornell Redheads, who finished with 212. A big thank you to all who helped, including our coach, Mr. Irons, our backup driver, Mr. Newcombe, our club leader, George Radcliffe, our supportive parents, the MOS members who funded us, and our fellow WSB teams.



A Busy First Year For The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

By Marion Clement, Executive Director

GIVING OUR AVIAN FRIENDS A UNITED VOICE IN MD:

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) was conceptualized by several organizations that wanted to bring bird conservation to the front line in Maryland. Although our state is the epicenter for numerous restoration and conservation efforts focused

around water quality and the Bay, few focus specifically on birds. Our state's birds are threatened by development, changing climate, and habitat degradation. The Partnership is working to ramp up bird conservation efforts by identifying and supporting diverse collaboration opportunities in the realms of habitat creation and conservation, education and citizen science, avian data management and research, and project funding.

Discussions during 2015 began to bring this vision to fruition. A year later, the Maryland Ornithological Society provided \$25,000 to match the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' \$65,000 from federal Pittman-Robertson dollars (1) to support the Partnership. These funds, along with in-kind support from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, allowed the MBCP Steering Committee to hire its first Executive Director and a Science Coordinator for 2016-2017.

CITIZEN SCIENCE: To ensure long-term sustainability of the organization, projects were

IBA Monitoring Program Summary:

Partners:

Audubon MD-DC, Scenic Rivers Land Trust, MD DNR, Patapsco State Park, Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary, and American Chestnut Land Trust

IBA Sites:

Jug Bay, South River Greenway, Patapsco State Park, Idylwild Wildlife Management Area, Chapman State Park, and Parkers Creek Wildlife Management Area

Project Highlights:

At **Idylwild WMA**, MBCP is working with MD DNR's Wildlife & Heritage Service to collect data pre- and post-woodland restoration efforts for early successional species such as northern bobwhite, turkey, woodcock, nightjars and yellow-breasted chat.

At the **South River Greenway**, MBCP is working with Scenic Rivers Land Trust and USFWS to assess the impact of recreational trail development in the Bacon Ridge Natural Area.

selected for maximum visibility and outreach for the public and partner organizations. MBCP launched two highly successful citizen science programs, involving experienced birders and the general public.

Our first and oldest program, the **Bald Eagle Monitoring Program**, engaged over 125 volunteers. With 71 nest monitors active in 2017, and more than 200 nests currently being monitored, this program has been most successful in reaching the general public, and prompted an interview with WNAV, an Annapolis radio station and partner. The program continues to build upon the long-term data set originally collected by MD DNR when the eagles were listed, and is a good productivity index for eagles in Maryland.

MBCP also partnered with Audubon MD-DC this year to develop the **Important Bird Area (IBA) Monitoring Program**. IBAs are key sites for our native avifauna and monitoring efforts help protect these areas and provide much needed information about the health of our birds. Over 25 avid birders volunteered for this pilot program, collecting data on 36 routes spanning six IBA sites. This program has been most successful at forging eight new partnerships, as well as engaging MOS members to contribute valuable scientific data for conservation applications.

WORKING GROUPS FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS:
With the help of the Steering Committee, the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership developed its organizational structure through strategic planning, developing policies and procedures, and creating five working groups. These working groups are the foundation for collaboration across organizations, and are made up of experts from partner organizations. The groups create a voluntary network of local, state, federal and independent organizations that discuss state-wide priorities, set goals for collaboration, and carry out projects. The Avian Data Management group (chaired by Jim Brighton, Maryland Biodiversity Project) and Education & Outreach group (chaired by George Radcliffe, MOS) have set objectives for next year. The Forest Habitat, Grassland Habitat, and Funding working groups are in the process of being formed.

IN-KIND SUPPORT:

MBCP's projects rely on donations of time and effort by our volunteers and our partners. Since October 2016, MBCP volunteers have donated 1,906 hours to our projects! The monetary value of these hours is \$59,098, which we can use as in-kind support for funding proposals.

ADDITIONAL FUNDS:

MBCP applied for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program grant with MOS and the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition to fund staff and project items for urban bird community outreach efforts. The total requested was \$35,000. We will hear back soon. We are also grateful for Anne Arundel Bird Club's donation of \$1,000 to the MBCP and a Southern Maryland Audubon Society donation of \$100.

NEXT UP FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership is off to a strong start. The first year of the Partnership's existence under the Executive Director was focused on building a name, platform, and portfolio for the organization. With a second financial donation from MOS for 2018, the Partnership will be able to fund the director position and provide seed money for our projects and working groups. While building upon the achievements and partner collaborations of this past year, we will also be able to look for external funding for next year. This is a critical time for our organization's future, and we are thrilled to have the Maryland Ornithological Society's continued support to preserve the diversity of birds and their habitats in our state. To learn more, visit www.marylandbirds.org, subscribe to our monthly newsletter, and follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/marylandbcp. To support our efforts, volunteer with us or consider a tax-deductible donation on our website.

(1) The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, most often referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act, provides federal funds to States from hunting licenses and excise taxes on shooting sports equipment.



Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report as of July 24, 2017

by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the last committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review packages 168 through 169. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of Maryland Birdlife. A new "state" species (marked with asterisks) is Black-throated Gray Warbler for DC. This addition brings the total species on the Official Lists of the Birds of DC to 339. The total species on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD remains at 450 (however, the recent lumping of Thayer's Gull with Iceland Gull by the AOS 58th Checklist Supplement will reduce each list by one when these taxonomic changes are implemented in the committee's database).

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at the following URL:
<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>

MD Records Accepted:

Pink-footed Goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* [MD/2016-062]. Reese's Corner Road, Rock Hall, Kent County. 18-Dec-2016. Two adult-like birds.

Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus* [MD/2015-010]. C&O Canal Terminus, Cumberland, Allegany County. 08-Feb-2015 through 29-Mar-2015. One adult female.

Harlequin Duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus* [MD/2015-096]. C&O Canal Terminus, Cumberland, Allegany County. 27-Dec-2015 through 30-Dec-2015. One adult female.

Barrow's Goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica* [MD/2016-061]. Elms Environmental Education Center, Dameron, Saint Mary's County. 18-Dec-2016 through 18-Feb-2017. One adult male.

Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2017-025]

South River, Edgewater, Anne Arundel County. 20-May-2017. One adult female.

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2016-053]. Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Prince George's County. 14-Nov-2016 through 15-Nov-2016. One bird.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [MD/2017-013]. Between 3rd and 4th streets, Ocean City, Worcester County. 01-Mar-2017 through 13-Mar-2017. One adult.

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus* [MD/2014-082]. Irvine Nature Center, Owings Mills, Baltimore County. 28-Sep-2014. One bird.

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus* [MD/2015-098]. Carroll Clark Road, Galena, Kent County. 27-Dec-2015 through 28-Feb-2016. One bird.

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus* [MD/2016-007]. Dry Bridge Road, Emmitsburg, Frederick County. 31-Jan-2016 through 08-Feb-2016. One adult.

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus* [MD/2017-011]. "Southern Garrett County," Garrett County. 14-May-2016. One bird.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2008-092]. Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County. 09-Nov-2008. One bird.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2008-094]. West Ocean City, Ocean City, Worcester County. 15-Nov-2008. One bird, probably an adult male.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2010-077]. Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory, Kingstown, Queen Anne's County. 30-May-2010. One SY male.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2010-177]. Street, Harford County. 25-Oct-2010 through 15-Dec-2010. One bird.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2011-424]. Assateague

Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County. 03-Dec-2011. One female or first-winter bird.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2012-148]. Terrapin Nature Park, Stevensville, Queen Anne's County. 11-Oct-2012. One bird.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2013-003]. Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Prince Frederick, Calvert County. 13-Jan-2013. One female or first-winter bird.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2014-103]. Bayside Development, Berlin, Worcester County. 15-Nov-2014 through 16-Nov-2014. One bird.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2016-063]. Ocean City Elementary School, Ocean City, Worcester County. 28-Dec-2016 through 25-Feb-2017. One bird.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), *Setophaga coronata auduboni* [MD/2017-004]. Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, Washington County. 25-Jan-2017. One bird.

Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Setophaga nigrescens* [MD/2016-056]. Millard Tydings Memorial Park and Marina, Havre de Grace, Harford County. 26-Nov-2016 through 15-Jan-2017. One adult male.

Le Conte's Sparrow, *Ammodramus leconteii* [MD/2017-012]. Swan Harbor Farm Park, Havre de Grace, Harford County. 22-Feb-2017 through 25-Feb-2017. One bird.

Harris's Sparrow, *Zonotrichia querula* [MD/2017-003]. Price Station Road, Centreville, Queen Anne's County. 01-Jan-2016 through 04-May-2016. One adult.

MD Records Not Accepted:

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus* [MD/2015-047]. Holsinger Lane, Ridgely, Caroline County. 30-May-2015. One bird.

Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus* [MD/2015-088]. Trout Run Wastewater Treatment Plant, Oakland, Garrett County. 05-Apr-2014. One bird.

DC Records Accepted:

Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus* [DC/2015-032]. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. 16-May-2015. One bird.

*Black-throated Gray Warbler, *Setophaga nigrescens* [DC/2016-064]. American University Park. 30-Dec-2016 through 06-Jan-2017. One bird.



Leadership Transition For The Bird Conservation Partnership

Dear MOS Members,

I feel very fortunate to have taken a small part in helping to build this initiative in our state, and I never ceased to be impressed by the generosity, creativeness, and enthusiasm of our partners. With this energy and willingness to collaborate, we are bound to accomplish significant positive change in Maryland. This is why it is particularly difficult for me to announce my departure come August.

As some of you may have already heard, I have received a funded research position to pursue a Master's degree in Wildlife Biology at Clemson. This is a great opportunity for me to continue my education, but I am saddened to leave such an inspiring network of people. You have been so great to work with. I'm happy to say that Chris Eberly, MBCP Science Coordinator, has agreed to take on the Director's position. Chris has been working with us since last October and he is familiar with our projects, partners, and mission. In addition, Chris has ample professional experience in bird conservation and he will be bringing valuable new skillsets to our organization.

Chris and I will be working closely in July and August to ensure a smooth transition between leaderships. By mid-August Chris will be fully briefed on our projects and organization. I will continue to correspond with him regularly until we have completed the transition. Please take a moment in to call or drop Chris a note to introduce yourself.

Thank you all so much for your support. Please feel free to reach out to me with any follow-up questions. Chris and I will both be using the director@marylandbirds.org email account during the transition period. Please read below for a short introduction from Chris.

Sincerely,

Marion Clement, MBCP Executive Director

program that won numerous national awards for conservation success and partnerships. It is this experience that I feel will help us take Marion's successful groundwork and move MBCP into a recognized leadership role for bird conservation in Maryland, the Mid-Atlantic region, and beyond.

I look forward to meeting all of you at your bird club meetings and the MOS convention. This is an exciting time for bird conservation in Maryland! I would love to hear your ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Chris Eberly, Incoming MBCP Executive Director



Dear MOS Board and Members,

I am very excited to accept the position of Executive Director of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. I officially started on July 17. I have become very familiar with MBCP, its programs, and its partners in my role as Science Coordinator that I have filled for the past 6 months.

Marion and I have worked together extensively over the last 6 months. I am extremely grateful to her for the fantastic job she has done to get the Partnership up and running (and running really fast!). Marion and I are working closely to ensure the transition of leadership is as smooth as we can possibly make it. Having a chance for an incoming and outgoing director to work together is not common. Thanks to Gwen Brewer and MOS for providing the funding to allow this overlap!

I have a B.S. in computer science and spent 11 years in the computer industry. Like Marion, I then returned to graduate school, at the University of Georgia. Upon graduating with an M.S. in natural resources and ornithology, I took a job involving a fledgling partnership—Partners in Flight. The Department of Defense (DoD) contracted me as the DoD Partners in Flight coordinator, a position I held until funding ran out 17 years later. During that time, I built the DoD Partners in Flight program into a model

Book Review: *Monarchs and Milkweed: A Migrating Butterfly, a Poisonous Plant, and Their Remarkable Story of Coevolution*, by Anurag Agrawal. 2017. Princeton University Press. 283 pp.

Maryland's gardens, fields, and roadsides will soon be graced by what we hope will be an abundance of monarch butterflies, *Danaus plexippus*. Actually, these particular orange and black splashes of late summer color will be part of generation three of this year's monarch crop, the great-grand progeny of butterflies that successfully overwintered at altitudes above 10,000 ft. on only a dozen mountains in central Mexico. It will be the generation that will migrate back to those mountaintop islands, part of a mass movement of millions of monarchs from Saskatchewan to the Gulf of Mexico and east of the Rockies. Those that complete the journey despite the vicissitudes of distance and weather, avoid destruction by parasites, mice and birds, and survive anomalous hard freezes at their winter home, will return to establish next year's first generation in the southern USA.

The other star actor in this remarkable story is the milkweed plant or, more accurately, some 130 North American species of the genus *Asclepias*, of which the common milkweed (*A. syriaca*) is the most familiar. The monarch-

milkweed relationship is of special interest to birders because we have learned that *D. plexippus* avoids bird predation through a combination of being distasteful and advertising itself through its familiar orange-and-black warning coloration. A monarch's unpalatability is derived from its feeding as a caterpillar on milkweed as its exclusive host. The why's and how's of this insect-plant relationship are far less familiar to amateur birders, except that we have a sense that it is a mutually beneficial one in which the butterfly benefits by acquiring toxicity and the milkweed also benefits, possibly from pollination by adult butterflies. This last conclusion about mutualism is fundamentally wrong. This interesting book corrects this misconception and, in doing so, it invites us to explore even more fantastic aspects of the monarch-milkweed relationship.

Anurag Agrawal states the basis of that relationship in his book's second paragraph: "The monarch exploits, and the milkweed defends." Adult monarch butterflies are in fact poor milkweed pollinators and have nothing positive to do with the plants' reproduction and dispersal. From a milkweed's perspective, monarch caterpillars are only predators. The author is a chemical ecologist in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University. Professor Agrawal is cognizant of inheriting a legacy of monarch research from well-known predecessors such as Lincoln Brower and the Urquharts. His own research incorporates another legacy derived from medicine and chemistry. The result is a book that is an informative and well-illustrated romp through animal physiology, chemical ecology, and evolutionary biology.

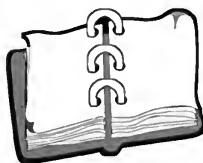
The chemical compounds that are the basis of the monarch-milkweed relationship are collectively called "cardenolides." One of the most familiar is digitalis, derived from the foxglove plant (*Digitalis* spp.). Cardenolides are steroids, and milkweeds have a great variety of them. These compounds affect all animal cells by interfering with the "sodium pump," an essential mechanism for maintaining sodium/potassium ionic balance across membranes which is necessary for such actions as nerve impulse transmission and muscle contraction. Large doses of certain cardenolides can be fatal due to their effect on heart muscle. Monarch caterpillars possess a

mutation that reduces the sensitivity of their cellular sodium pumps to cardenolides. In addition, they have evolved an ability to sequester cardenolides in their tissues, effectively preventing them from circulating and doing internal harm. It turns out that low doses of cardenolides are distasteful to birds and can induce vomiting before reaching deadly levels. Would-be bird predators barf without dying, learn from such an encounter, and avoid future prey having similar warning coloration.

Given that monarchs are exclusively milkweed predators, Agrawal treats the relationship as a coevolutionary arms race. In addition to cardenolides, milkweeds have evolved many other mechanisms to keep from being eaten. These include the latex-rich sap that gives the plant its name. There is also an abundance of hairs ("trichomes") on the leaves of some species that make it well-nigh impossible for a newly hatched caterpillar to feed. Indeed, these and other defenses make caterpillar survival the exception rather than the rule. But those that do survive possess behavioral and chemical countermeasures, so the arms race continues.

As a former teacher of evolutionary biology, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I especially liked Agrawal's attempts to explain clearly technical chemical or ecological details, or combinations thereof. The text is augmented by a plethora of illustrations that range from diagrams and graphs to interesting historical photos and, of course, wonderful pictures of the monarch life cycle itself from egg to wintering grounds. A reader who can get through the more tedious explanations will find several other common misconceptions corrected (e.g., blaming the current decline of monarch numbers to a loss of milkweed hosts attributed to modern farming and pesticide use). In fact, that reader will have reviewed just about all that is presently known about the monarch-milkweed relationship, explored many of the ramifications of that relationship for habitat protection and conservation, and gained a new appreciation of the beautiful complexity of our natural world. Those can be very satisfying outcomes, indeed.

Wayne Bell



MOS Calendar
Sep - Oct 2017
By Marilyn Veen

Friday, September 1

ANNUAL BIRDSEED SALE. **Talbot.** The sale opens, with a portion of proceeds going to Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Orders due by October 1; local pick up at Pickering Creek in mid-October. Contact Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002, wbell2@washcoll.edu, for price list and details.

Saturday, September 2

Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. Alan and Susan Young will lead this monthly trip. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of the park, and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet at the Park. Contact leaders Alan and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

Carroll. Morgan Run South. Moderate hike. We'll look for early migrants. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the parking lot at the end of Ben Rose Lane. Contact Bill Ellis, 443-520-8809.

Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants and Hawk Watch Kickoff. Join us for the traditional kick-off to the annual Turkey Point Hawk Watch, which runs every day from Labor Day weekend through Thanksgiving. Walk through the woods and fields for migrant songbirds, including early warblers. Be prepared for a round-trip hike to the Point, a distance of about two miles. The pace will be leisurely. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are a few hilly sections. Wear comfortable shoes/boots for walking. Bring drinks and/or snacks. Sunscreen and bug spray are strongly recommended. 7 AM (half day). Meet at the Turkey Point parking lot. Leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

Kent. Bombay Hook NWR. The salt marshes of Delaware Bay host large numbers of herons, shorebirds, waterfowl, gulls, and raptors, while

there may be warblers and other migrants in roadside thickets. Bring lunch. 8 AM. Meet at Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace, Chestertown. If you have questions, contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

Patuxent/PG. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, September 3

Caroline. Bird Walk at Tuckahoe SP. 8 AM. Meet at Queen Anne's side parking lot near boat ramp. Leader Danny Poet, birder231@hotmail.com.

Howard. Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk. Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies with instruction on their identification. Easy walking on mowed paths around the community garden plots and Elkhorn meadow. We will continue on paved paths and mowed areas near the right-of-way alongside open, flowery wet meadows and brushy hillsides. Bring close-focus binoculars to view nectaring behavior. Cancelled if raining or overcast. No facilities. 9:30 AM, 2-3 hours. Meet at Elkhorn Garden Plots, Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Ct. Leader Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com.

Talbot. Tilghman Island. We will bird the Fairbanks and Black Walnut Point Road areas in search of late nesting species, plus early arriving southbound transient warblers, swallows, flycatchers, and vireos. 7:30 AM. Meet at the north end of the Black Walnut Point Rd parking lot. Leaders Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009, Jeff Effinger, 410-443-5016, and/or Jan Reese 410-745-2875.

Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)

Harford. Ma & Pa Trail. Stroll a portion of this popular trail, walking from Annie's Playground towards Tollgate Rd in search of early migrants and local residents. The diverse habitats along the way promise a good variety of species. 7 AM. Meet at the parking lot near Annie's Playground on Smith Ln off Connolly Rd in Fallston. Leader Elaine Beery, ehbeery@yahoo.com or 410-272-6037.

Tuesday, September 5

■ Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader Marty Brazeau, 410-440-1128 or tropicbirder56@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening at Cylburn. *Jim Meyers* on "Fall Hawk Migration in Baltimore." Jim is coordinator of the fall Hawk Watch at Cromwell Valley Park. Cromwell has become one of the premier hawk-watching sites in the Mid-Atlantic states; it is particularly notable for high counts of Broad-winged Hawks. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, lecture starts about 7:20 PM.

Wednesday, September 6

■ Baltimore. First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM (half day). Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

■ Baltimore. Wednesday Evening Walk at Fort McHenry. Part of a series of evening bird walks at the Fort and wetland. Telescope may be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 6-8 PM. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "The Maryland Bird Conservation Initiative" by *Chris Eberly*. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell, jewelldg@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Speaker TBA. 7-8:30 PM. Senior Center, Cecil County Admin Bldg, 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton. For more information, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Thursday, September 7

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Chris Eberly* will discuss the work of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership in identifying and prioritizing bird conservation needs and opportunities within Maryland. 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms. Contact Don Hambright, 301- 676-0635.

■ Howard. Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Moderate walking through wooded trails and along the river. Great area for migrants of all species. Field edges and thickets provide sparrow habitat. If time and birds warrant, we will also do the Trotter Rd Loop. Prepare for wet grass and mud on the trails. No facilities. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet at the Clegg Meadow off Southwind Cir, Columbia. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

■ Patuxent/PG. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, September 8

■ Allegany/Garrett. Birding at Sang Run, Friend's Delight. Connie Skipper will lead this walk thru the beautiful Friend's Delight property. 8 AM. Meet at the first parking lot on the left after Friend's Store. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

Saturday-Sunday, September 9-10

■ Allegany/Garrett. Dolly Sods Bird Banding Station and Canaan Valley NWR Boardwalk off Freeland Rd, in Davis, WV. Deadline to sign up for this weekend trip is Sept 1. Contact leaders Joe & Carol McDaniel, mcdanieljandc@gmail.com.

Saturday, September 9

■ Baltimore. Youth Birding at Cromwell Valley Park, Willow Grove. We begin the season at one of the best birding areas near Baltimore. We'll look for all sorts of sparrows, warblers, flycatchers and various other migrants, along with lingering summer residents. Past years have been so impressive that there's simply no telling what we'll find. Start learning how to identify all those confusing fall birds! Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Meet at the Nature Education Ctr, 2175 Cromwell Bridge Road (the second entrance off Cromwell Bridge Rd.) Leader John Robinson, 443-810-9059 (cell), 410-483-6620 (home), or jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

■ Baltimore. Soldiers Delight. An easy 2.3 mile hike through deciduous woods, conifers, and open grasslands. We expect to see a wide variety of migrating and resident birds including

warblers, sparrows, hawks, etc. All experience levels welcome. 8 AM. Meet at the visitor center at 5100 Deer Park Rd, Owings Mills. Leader Sarah Luttrell, luttrell.sa@gmail.com or 614-352-7718.

■ Harford. Birding for Beginners at Harford Glen. A pleasant walk along the wetlands, streams, and meadows of this beautiful outdoor education site. This trip is specifically designed for beginners. School age children accompanied by an adult are welcome as well. 8:30 AM. Meet in the Harford Glen parking lot. For further details contact leader Ruth Bergstrom, 443-752-1967 or ruthb22@yahoo.com.

■ Howard. Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm. Two-hour bird walk followed by a four-hour hawk watch. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. 8 AM-2PM. Meet at parking lot. Leader Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net or 410-461-2408.

 **YMOS.** Assateague Island Bird Competition. This is the First Annual Competition. Teams will try to find as many species as possible during competition hours (5 AM-5PM.) Compilation dinner after competition. Lodging available Friday night at the Radcliffes. Bring a sleeping bag, food, and snacks. Camping usually available at Assateague. More detailed information will be sent out in advance of the trip. Email George Radcliffe, radclifq@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

BOARD MEETING. **MOS.** Hosted by Caroline County Bird Club. 7:30 AM-2PM. Refreshments will be provided. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St., Denton.

Sunday, September 10

■ Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. A monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8-11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Quarry Lake. Popular and scenic

birding location with level, often paved, pathways with excellent views down (not up!) into the treetops surrounding Quarry Lake. We should see songbirds, raptors, and even a few shorebirds. 8 AM. Meet at the benches where the 3 flags are flying on Quarry Lake Dr. Cancelled if raining. Handicap accessible. Leader John Dennehy, 410-653-5214 or jedennehy@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM (half day.) Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ Howard. Rockburn Branch Park. Moderate walking through the woods and fields of our largest county park looking for migrants. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available. 8 AM (half day). Meet in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse. The park gate is just beyond Rockburn Elementary School. Leaders Karen and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731 or KJHeff@aol.com.

■ Montgomery. Rock Creek Park DC for Beginners. The focus will be on identifying migrant warblers, vireos and sparrows but we'll also look closely at more common birds. 6:30 AM (one-third day). Meet at Picnic Area 18 (on Ridge Rd, 1/2 mile below the nature center). Reservations required. For reservations and directions call leader Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

■ Talbot. Bombay Hook NWR. Always a great trip in search of migrating passerines, raptors, waders, shorebirds and possible early arriving waterfowl. Bring lunch, drinks and insect repellent. 6:30 AM. Easton Acme parking lot. Leader Charles Hopkins, 443-786-6332.

Monday, September 11

MEETING. **Talbot.** Chris Eberly will speak on "Maryland Bird Conservation." 7 PM. Bayleigh Chase Auditorium (aka William Hill Manor Auditorium), 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton.

Tuesday, September 12

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** Chris Eberly, Director of MD Bird Conservation Partnership, will

speak on "Bird Conservation Starts With You." 7 PM. Compton Hall, Room TBA, Frostburg State University.

■ **Baltimore.** Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader John Landers, 410-292-9549 or dado1bw@aol.com.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** BBC Board meeting. While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Held at the Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

MEETING. **Kent.** Program and Speaker TBD. 7:30 PM, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ **Montgomery.** Rock Creek Park DC. Urban birding at its best with one of Rock Creek Park's "Regulars." This trip is geared to those who may be fairly new to birding but all are welcome. Migrant warblers, vireos and sparrows. 6:45 AM (one-third day). Meet at Picnic Area 18 (on Ridge Rd, 1/2 mile below Nature Center). Reservations required. For reservations and directions call leader Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PG.** "From Mountains to Saltmarsh: Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries" presented by *Marcia Watson*. MOS owns nine sanctuaries, totaling over 2,100 acres, spanning the state from Garrett County in the western part of the state, to Somerset County on the lower Eastern Shore. All of the sanctuaries are open to the public every day of the year, at no charge, and represent a microcosm of the habitats for birds in Maryland. Many people are aware of the Carey Run and Irish Grove Sanctuaries, where work-days are held each year, but the other sanctuaries are seldom visited. Drawing on the files of the MOS Sanctuary Committee, historic accounts in *Maryland Birdlife*, and photos and materials provided by MOS members across the state, Marcia will review the history of the MOS Sanctuary Program, provide profiles and show maps and photos of all the sanctuaries, discuss the birds and habitats found there, and will cover

some of the challenges that MOS faces in managing the properties. Marcia will conclude with suggestions on how interested individuals can become involved with the sanctuaries. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Floor, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park.

Wednesday, September 13

■ **Baltimore.** Wednesday Evening Walk at Fort McHenry. Part of a series of evening bird walks at the Fort and wetland. Telescope may be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 6-8 PM. Meet outside of park front gates and park at lot on left hand side. Leader Joe Supik, 443-417-5015.

■ **Howard.** Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at parking lot. Leader Warren Cummings, wcummings9@gmail.com or 410-925-1809.

■ **Montgomery.** Wheaton Regional Park. Join us to look for lingering migrant warblers, vireos and flycatchers. Reservations required. Limit 10. For more information about meeting time and place and for reservations email leaders Woody & Rae Dubois, dengue1@verizon.net.

Thursday, September 14

MEETING. **Howard.** "Namibia Overland," by *Allen Lewis*. This road trip, through starkly beautiful open country in one of the least densely populated countries in Africa, included the Okavango Delta in Botswana and Victoria Falls in Zambia. The trip was with Rockjumper Birding. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Friday, September 15

■ **Allegany/Garrett.** Birding at Sang Run, Friend's Delight. Connie Skipper will lead this walk thru the beautiful Friend's Delight property. 8 AM. Meet at the first parking lot on the left after Friend's Store. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

Saturday, September 16

Anne Arundel. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. We will walk through the wooded trail system, stopping at observation decks and blinds overlooking marshes along the Patuxent River. We should see many of fall migrants and perhaps the elusive Red-headed Woodpecker. Trails are hard-packed with moderate inclines. A scope is recommended. Restroom facilities on site. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet at Parole P&R. Contact Hannes Leonard, hannes@tracyleonard.com.

Baltimore. Hawks at Cromwell Valley Park. One-hour bird walk, followed by hawk watch on the hill. Bring a folding chair, water and sunblock for a morning's hawk watch. Good chance to see Broad-wings and several other hawk species. 8 AM. Meet at Willow Grove parking lot. Leader Jim Meyers, jamesleomeyers@mac.com.

Baltimore. Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 or drbeanes@verizon.net.

FALL COUNT. **Caroline.** Contact Debby Bennett at dabennett1996@gmail.com.

FALL COUNT. **Carroll.** Parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas to count resident and late migrant bird species throughout the County. Contact Don Jewell to verify your bird counting area (jewelldg@gmail.com or 410-259-4716). There will be no Tally Rally.

FALL COUNT. **Dorchester.** Contact Harry Armistead, 215-248-4120 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com.

Frederick. Gambrill SP and Frederick Watershed. Search for migrating fall warblers. Easy walking on mostly paved paths. Contact leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690, for meeting time and location.

Frederick. Audubon Society of Central MD monarch tagging at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Road, Mt. Airy. 9-11 AM. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

FALL COUNT. **Harford.** Contact Rick Cheicante, 410-803-2712 or rickcheicante@cs.com.

FALL COUNT. **Howard.** Please sign up at <http://howardbirds.org/howard/counts.htm>. Contact is Mike McClure, 410-531-2780 or Michael.McClure@jhuapl.edu.

Montgomery. Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area. Joint trip with ANS. Driftboat on Patuxent River followed by trail walk. Search for Sora, also migrant and resident songbirds and waterbirds. Bring fee of \$5 per person (Maryland residents) or \$7 (Virginia, DC residents) per person for park program; boat trip can be cool and a bit damp. 6:30 AM (half day.) Meet at park entrance gate. 20-person limit. Leaders Greg Kearns and John Bjerke. For reservations contact John Bjerke, johnbjerke1@mac.com or 240-401-1643.

Patuxent/PG. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

FALL COUNT. **Talbot.** Pickering Creek Audubon Center. PCAC has become one of the best locations in Talbot to bird at any season. If you can help, contact coordinator Samantha Pitts, 410-822-4903, spitts@audubon.org or Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002.

ANNUAL PICNIC. **Tri-County.** Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Drinks are provided. 4 PM. At the home of Paul Bystrak and Marylee Ross, 5968 Rockawalkin Rd, Salisbury. Rain or shine. For questions or directions, please contact Paul Bystrak at 443-783-1268 or shrike@comcast.net.

FALL COUNT. **Washington.** Contact Doris Berger, 301-739-8907, to participate.

FALL COUNT. **YMOS.** Taylor's Island, Dorchester County. 4 AM-5 PM. We'll begin early, but there will be overnight lodging provided near the location for participating birders. The trip is open to anyone, and you can come for all of it or part time. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

Sunday, September 17

FALL COUNT. Allegany. Contact Chuck Hager, 301-689-5344 or drhager@verizon.net.

■ Anne Arundel. Foreman's Branch Bird Banding Station. Previously known as Chino Farms, this is the only major migratory bird banding station on the Eastern Shore of MD. The small group of banders will demonstrate how they ensnare the birds in the nets, carefully extract them, transport them back to the banding shed, note the sex, age, weight, attach bands and release them back into the wild. We will get to observe both resident birds and migratory birds on the way to their winter grounds, see them up close and learn about them in a fun and exciting way. This trip is limited to 15 people, an RSVP is required and carpooling is necessary. No restroom facilities on site. 6:45 AM (half day). Meet at Bay 50 shopping center. Contact Dianne Westbrook, 443-618-8421 or edwestbrook1@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. Please join us for a bird walk at the height of fall migration in a 1,200 acre wilderness park in west Baltimore City. The park contains mature and secondary forest as well as riparian habitats and some limited field habitat. 8 AM. Meet at the Winans Meadows parking lot, on N side of Franklinton Rd. Leaders Elise and Paul Kreiss, 410-367-8194, ekreiss@verizon.net, paul1kreiss@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Chimney Swifts at Dusk. Join the BBC Swift Watch Team as Chimney Swifts enter a favorite chimney at sunset. We're expecting hundreds, even thousands of swifts. Because the swifts routinely change migration roosting chimneys, this year's fall site will be posted on the BBC website and on Facebook on Friday, Sep 15. Website: www.baltimorebirdclub.org. Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/382565775136349/members/. 7 PM. Come a half hour early if the weather is cloudy or gray. Cancelled if raining. Leaders Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net and Alice Nelson, 410-499-0546 or alice.display@verizon.net.

FALL COUNT. Calvert. Contact Sherman Suter, 703-768-5922 or shermansuter@gmail.com.

■ Cecil. Woodlawn Wildlife Area. This is a restored landfill that is a model for transforming an eyesore into a sight for sore eyes. Join us for a leisurely stroll around the fields and woods of this re-awakening natural area. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Woodlawn Parking Area. Carpooling is encouraged. Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

FALL COUNT. Kent. Help us count birds in as much of Kent County as possible in a single day; join a field party or cover your neighborhood anywhere in the county. If you have questions, contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

FALL COUNT. Patuxent/PG. Annual county-wide census of resident and migrating birds. Pick your own start and stop times. Contact the county compiler David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, to receive an assigned area and for more information.

■ Talbot. Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Visit one of Talbot County's birding hotspots in prime migration season. Expect migrating warblers, other songbirds and shorebirds visiting the newly established wetlands. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM or meet at Pickering Creek parking lot at 7:20AM. Leader Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002.

Tuesday, September 19

■ Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

■ Patuxent/PG. Seasons at South Tract. One of a series of quarterly bird walks at the South Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge. We will walk some of the trails and will stop at the Pollinator Garden bird feeding area by the Visitor Center. Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Target species include migrating warblers, flycatchers, vireos, sparrows. 9 AM. Meet in the parking lot of the National Wildlife Visitor Center; bear left on entering the parking area and go all the way to the last section of the lot past the covered solar recharging station for electric vehicles. For directions, see <https://www.fws.gov/refugee/Patuxent/visit/direct>

ions.html. For further information, contact leader Marcia Watson at marshwren50@comcast.net.

Wednesday, September 20

MEETING. Anne Arundel. AABC Annual Open House. Information on the upcoming trips, speakers, family and youth programs, refreshments, sale items, and more. Festivities include a demonstration of live native birds, and two audio/visual programs: *Colin Rees* continues his bird life-cycle series with "Demography - bird population dynamics", and *Pierre Henkart* entertains with his vivid video captures, "Severn River Birds." 7-9 PM. Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

MEETING. Montgomery. *Bonnie Ott* on Sparrows. Bonnie is a passionate amateur birder and photographer. She has been exploring the natural world of Maryland for three decades. Bonnie has been a long time Howard Bird Club member and worked on many volunteer projects through the years. She has led countless field trips and helped expand peoples knowledge of nature. One of her favorite interests is helping with the "Maryland Biodiversity Project" which is working to record all living things in Maryland. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting starts at 8. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

Thursday, September 21

MEETING. Caroline. Program "Tuckahoe State Park's Scales and Tales: Birds of Prey". 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

■ Patuxent/PG. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, September 22

■ Allegany/Garrett. Birding at Sang Run, Friend's Delight. Connie Skipper will lead this walk thru the beautiful Friend's Delight property. 8 AM. Meet at the first parking lot on the left after Friend's Store. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

Saturday, September 23

■ Allegany/Garrett. Youghiogheny River for Shore Birds. Old Morgantown Road - Youghiogheny Reservoir just north of Friendsville. This will be a new trip for the bird club. As the lake recedes, shorebirds may be drawn to the mud flats. Last year saw several rare shore birds along with waterfowl, herons, hawks and the usual suspects in the wooded area along the reservoir. Expect muddy conditions so wear waterproof boots or muck boots. Sun protection may be needed if it's a clear day. Contact leader Melissa Hensel at mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ Baltimore. Druid Hill Park. Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8 AM. Meet at 3001 East Dr. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

■ Carroll. Birds and Booze. What better combination could there be? 8 AM. Join us for birding on the trails of the The Galloping Goose Vineyard at 4326 Maple Grove Rd in Hampstead (https://www.gallopinggoosevineyards.com/cont_act1.shtml) followed by wine tasting at around 11:30 AM. There is an \$8.00 charge for the tasting. Bill Ellis will lead. Contact him at 443-520-8809 if you have any questions.

■ Cecil. Turkey Point Migrants. Join peerless warbler finder Sean McCandless at Turkey Point, where the fall warblers are plentiful. Be prepared for a round-trip hike to the Point, a distance of about two miles. The pace will be leisurely. Most of the walking is on a gravel road with good footing, but there are a few hilly sections. Wear comfortable shoes/boots for walking. Bring drinks and/or snacks. Sunscreen and bug spray are strongly recommended. 7 AM (half day). Meet at the Turkey Point parking lot. Leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

■ Montgomery. Snickers Gap Hawkwatch (between Bluemont & Berryville, VA.) Joint trip with ANS. Peak time for Broad-winged Hawks. Bring tripods, scopes, chairs, pack lunch, and rain/wind gear. 10 AM (2/3 day.) Meet at commuter parking lot at VA 7 and VA 601. Call leaders Joan Boudreau and Bob Abrams,

icepeep@aol.com or 703-734-1238, for reservations and directions.

BIRDING FESTIVAL. Patuxent/PG. Lake Artemesia. Sponsored by Prince George's Audubon Society. 4th annual migration-themed birding festival with live raptors and 11 AM raptor talk; artist-led field sketching demo/workshop; 7:30 AM bird walk for all skill levels; 10 AM family nature walk; children's games, crafts, coloring pages, bilingual Spanish/English activity pages; spotting scope set up; Monarch butterfly life cycle display. For more information, contact Lynette Fullerton at birdzenbeads@yahoo.com.

Sunday, September 24

■ **Baltimore.** Cylburn Walk. Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. Handicap accessible. 8:15 AM. Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot. Leader Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com.

■ **Baltimore.** Stony Run. An easy morning walk along Stony Run, an urban stream in Baltimore City. We expect to see a diversity of bird life, including warblers and other migrants plus local residents such as Belted Kingfisher. Sponsored by Friends of Stony Run. 9 AM. Meet at the Stony Run trailhead at the corner of Wyndhurst Ave and Wilmslow Rd. Leaders Alice Nelson, 410-499-0546 or alice.display@verizon.net, and Claire Wayner, 410-499-1182 or Claire@wayner.org.

■ **Montgomery.** Pennyfield to Violette's Bird Stalk. This walk should net an interesting mix of late warblers, other land bird migrants, and probably a few early winter visitors, as we scan the skies and river for raptors and waterbirds. For folks who prefer a somewhat later start to their birding, we will meet at 9 AM (half day). Meet at the parking lot at the end of Violette's Lock Rd. We will then carpool to Pennyfield Lock and walk back up the C&O Canal towpath to Violette's Lock. Limit 12. To sign up, contact leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517.

■ **Talbot.** Adkins Arboretum and Tuckahoe SP. Adkins is one of the premier fall migration spots on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Expect to see lots of late migrating warblers, and early arriving

sparrows and migrating raptors. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM or meet at Tuckahoe Lake parking lot at 7 AM. Leader Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376.

Monday, September 25

MEETING. **Tri-county.** "Environmental Education on the Eastern Shore" with *Mike Hillman*, Chincoteague Bay Field Station. 7 PM. MAC Education Center, off Snow Hill Rd., Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net for more info.

Tuesday, September 26

■ **Baltimore.** Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader Ron Davis, 410-821-1297 or 2zathigh1@verizon.net.

MEETING. **Washington.** "Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership" with *Chris Eberly*. 7 PM. Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt. Aetna Rd, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 for additional information.

Friday, September 29

■ **Allegany/Garrett.** Birding at Sang Run, Friend's Delight. Connie Skipper will lead this walk thru the beautiful Friend's Delight property. 8 AM. Meet at the first parking lot on the left after Friend's Store. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

Saturday, September 30

■ **Anne Arundel.** Swan Creek. This trip will visit a variety of habitats, to include upland woods, wetlands, beach, and dredge cells. We can expect a few lingering shorebirds (subject to water levels), good numbers of waterfowl, and some mid-fall migrant passerines. The trip will include walking on some very coarse stone and rocks; therefore, good quality hiking boots are encouraged. We will generally stay on well-traveled paths, but tick protection is always a good idea. Bring water and some snacks. There should be a spot-a-pot available part way through the trip; otherwise, the restroom in the office facility is available before the walk and can be visited at one point during the walk. If you haven't birded here before, you will need to sign a one-time release, acknowledging that this is an industrial site, with commensurate risks. Prepare

to see some great birds! 7 AM (half day.) Meet at Swan Creek. Contact Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

■ Baltimore. Patterson Park. Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. Handicap accessible. 8 AM. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St & S Patterson Park Ave. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org.

■ Harford. Emory Knoll Farm. This beautiful property in north central Harford County provides diverse habitat that promises good fall birding and a pleasant outdoor experience. Join Carey Rowsom, HBC member and Emory Knoll staffer, and co-leader Susan Hood as they guide you along the paths of the farm in search of resident species and fall migrants. 8 AM. Meet at the farm, 3410 Ady Rd, Street, MD. Look for the sign at the end of the drive "Green Roof Plants". Carpooling encouraged as parking space is limited. Contact Susan Hood, 410-937-7552 or susanhood@comcast.net.

■ Howard. Jug Bay Boat Trip. Look for migrants, Sora, Virginia Rail, Least Bittern, and shorebirds during this boat trip along Jug Bay at low tide. There is a \$6 fee (cash only) for this trip. 7 AM. Meet at Patuxent River Park, 16000 Croom Airport Rd, Upper Marlboro. For reservations contact Mary Maxey at maximom11998@gmail.com.

■ Kent. Turkey Point. Cecil County's premier migration hot spot features raptors overhead and warblers and other migrants in the woods and thickets along the walk to the lighthouse. Bring lunch. 8 AM. Meet at Dollar General parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace, Chestertown. If you have questions, contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Washington. Fort Frederick SP. 7 AM (half day.) Depart the MVA lot, 18306 Col. Henry K. Douglas Dr. Contact Bruce or Linda Field at 301-797-6189 to register.

Sunday, October 1

■ Baltimore. Hashawha Environmental Center. A new trip for BBC. This 320-acre Carroll Co Park is a good spot for migrating songbirds. 8:30 AM. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot. Leader Bob Ringler, ringler.bob@gmail.com.

■ Caroline. Bird Banding observation in Chestertown with Jim Gruber, Bander. Great for kids. Adults welcome too. 8 AM. To register and for directions, contact Danny Poet, 410-827-8651 or birder231@hotmail.com.

■ Howard. Lake Elkhorn. Easy walking along the lake and to Forbay Pond. Migrants will be moving through. Warblers are generally in abundance. The lake can turn up interesting surprises. Hawks are also possible flying over. No facilities. Handicap accessible. 8 AM, 2-3 hrs. Meet at Dockside Parking lot. Leader Allen Lewis, allenrlewis@gmail.com.

■ Talbot. Spocott Farms and Windmill. Enjoy exploring the neck district of Dorchester County in search of early arriving waterfowl and sparrows as well as late transient warblers. 6:30 AM. Meet at Easton Acme parking lot. Leaders George Radcliffe, 410-228-7670, and Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002.

Tuesday, October 3

■ Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader Michael Bradley, 410-977-4695 or MichaelBradley023@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening at Cylburn. *David Curson* on "Land Use Policy and Bird Conservation." David Curson, Ph.D., is director of bird conservation at Audubon Maryland-DC. Since 2004 he has overseen the Maryland-DC Important Bird Areas Program and implemented conservation projects for birds and their habitats in Maryland and DC. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, presentation starts about 7:15 PM.

Wednesday, October 4

■ Baltimore. First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM

(half day). Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. Carroll. "A Birder's Guide to Trees" by **Jim Bauch.** 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

MEETING. Cecil. Speaker TBA. 7-8:30 PM. Senior Center, Cecil County Admin Bldg, 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton. For more information, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

■ Harford. Havre de Grace Promenade Bird Walk. Join the Maritime Museum's Environmental Center and the Harford Bird Club on an evening stroll along the beautiful Promenade with its spectacular views of the mouth of the Susquehanna River and the Susquehanna Flats. Binoculars helpful but not required. 5:30 PM. Meet at the Maritime Museum. Leaders Colleen Webster of the HBC, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577, and Sarah Shpak of the Environmental Center.

Thursday, October 5

MEETING. Frederick. Dr. Wayne Leadbedder will talk about beautiful and amazing "Butterflies." 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms. Contact Don Hambright, 301-676-0635.

■ Patuxent/PG. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, October 6

EXHIBIT OPENING. Baltimore. Art Exhibit Opening: Birdland and the Anthropocene. In this group show at The Peale Center, curator Lynne Parks invites us to consider how the Anthropocene, the new geological era dominated by human activity, affects bird life. *Scientists estimate that fifty percent of birds in the United States are imperiled and could disappear within a century.* Parks and the other featured artists consider extinction, endangered species and the postnatural (organisms that have been intentionally altered by humans). They employ

mixed media and ask a wide range of questions. Opening night at The Peale, 225 N Holliday St., Baltimore. Show continues through Oct. 29. See <http://www.thepealecenter.org/birdland-and-the-anthropocene/> for hours, special events and additional information.

Saturday, October 7

■ Allegany/Garrett. Hawk Identification at the Discovery Center. Ranger Sam Dixon will help us refine our hawk identification skills by outlining hints and clues that lead us to correctly identify high-flying raptors. 10 AM-noon. Meet at the Deep Creek Lake Discovery Center. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

BIG SIT. Anne Arundel. Ft. Smallwood. Alan and Susan Young will meet members and guests (ask at gate for location) for this day of counting birds. You can stay all day or stop in and count for part of the day. This is a social event where you can meet Club members. Bring some comfortable seating, food, drinks and enjoy the camaraderie of Club members. Limited walking since there's a count circle. This doesn't stop you from walking around and exploring Fort Smallwood while you are on site. \$6 per car Park entry fee. Contact Alan and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

BIG SIT. Caroline. Tuckahoe State Park gazebo between the lake and restrooms. Will run from early morning to early evening for some owling. Details will be listed on the club Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Caroline-County-Bird-Club-138388266259687/ and web page.

■ Carroll. Piney Run Park. As a follow-up to the talk on trees, Jim Bauch will help us put our new knowledge to use. Moderate walking. 8 AM (half day.) Meet at the parking lot outside the gate to Piney Run Park on Martz Rd off White Rock Rd. Contact Jim at 410-596-4426.

BIG SIT. Cecil. Turkey Pointers BIG SIT! Birding's Most Sedentary Event. Cecil Bird Club will be participating in the Annual BIG SIT!, an international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. THE BIG SIT! is like a Big Day or a bird-a-thon, in that the object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or

heard within 24 hours. The difference lies in the area limitation from which you can observe. All counting is done from inside a circle 17 feet in diameter. Counters sit inside the circle for 24 hours, counting all the bird species seen or heard.

Note: The specific day will be decided based on weather—watch the club web site for an update. Our BIG SIT! count circle will be based at the big cedar tree near the lighthouse at Turkey Point. Chris Starling will be our official counter. The Turkey Pointers Circle often reports the highest number of species among the Maryland BIG SIT! circles. Can we do it again? All are welcome to join the Turkey Point BIG SIT! circle, so pack some food and drink and come on out to join us. Chris and Sean will start at 4:30 AM; you may come whenever you like and stay for as long as you like. Hint: if you have any goodies to share, you might want to pack some extras for our stalwart BIG SIT! counters, to keep their spirits up for the long haul. It is not necessary to contact the leader before this event, just come on out any time during the day. Leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

■ Frederick. Seymour B. Cooper MOS Sanctuary. Explore this seldom-visited Sanctuary near Sabillasville. A gentle morning hike through woods. Leader, meeting time and location TBA.

BIG SIT. Kent. Eastern Neck NWR. Join us in our Big Sit circle (call for specific location) any time from first light (when birds are most active) to mid-afternoon, and stay as long as you would like. Sunday, October 8 is bad-weather backup date. If you have questions, contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Harford. Perryville Paddle Outing. Bring your kayak, canoe, stand-up, etc. as we look for fall migrants and water fowl. Colleen Webster and Sue Procell will ply the waters in search of swimmers, divers and, of course, fliers. 8:30 AM. Meet at Perryville Community Park at the Stump Point kayak launch ramp. We can help unload your craft. Contact Colleen, 410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu or Sue, 443-417-4919 or procellmd@gmail.com.

BIG SIT. Montgomery. The object of a Big Sit is to tally as many bird species seen or heard within 24 hours from a single spot. Our club has picked a good place for a day of bird watching and over the years has tallied more than 50 species. Join our host Chuck Parker at the dike across the road from the Black Hill RP boat ramp. We'll start at dawn and continue until we run out of steam. Come for the day or just an hour or two. New birders and new members encouraged! For more information or directions contact Chuck Parker at chparker@k12.wv.us.

■ Patuxent/PG. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ YMOS. Cape May Hawk Migration and Sea Watch. Though a long day, this is a great trip for all levels of birders. We'll carpool from both the Eastern and Western Shores and spend the day in Cape May during the peak of raptor migration. We'll also search for songbird migrants and visit the Avalon Seawatch. 8:30 AM. Meet at Cape May. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

Sunday, October 8

■ Allegany/Garrett. Dan's Rock Overlook to look for migrating raptors. 11 AM-3 PM. Contact Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. Monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8-11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ Montgomery. Little Bennett RP for Beginners. We'll slowly walk some of the woodland trails looking for migrant and resident birds. All are welcome but we especially encourage those new to birding to join us. 7:30 (half day). Reservations required. Limit 8. For reservations and directions contact leader Gemma Radko at 301-514-2894.

■ Talbot. Taylor's Island, Dorchester County. Quest for late fall migrants, early wintering arrivals, both land birds and waterfowl. Expect Bald Eagles, some kinglets, flycatchers, vireos. Less common species: Swainson's Thrush, Cape May Warbler. We have permission to visit private lands in our quest for unusual sightings. 6:30 AM. Meet at Easton Acme parking lot. Leaders Dave Palmer, 410-829-3376 and George Radcliffe, 410-228-7670.

Monday, October 9 (Columbus Day)

■ Harford. Waggoner's Gap. Visit this premier hawk-watching spot near Carlisle, PA. Possible sightings include Ravens, Golden Eagles, Ospreys, along with Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks. Bring a blanket or soft cushion as we will be sitting on a rocky outcrop. Also bring drinks and a lunch. 8 AM. Meet at the strip mall at Upper Cross Roads in Fallston (intersection of Rt 152 and Rt 165.) Leader is Mark Johnson, 410-692-5978 or marksjohnson2@gmail.com.

■ Talbot. Greg Kearns of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Details to be provided later. 7 PM. Bayleigh Chase Auditorium (aka William Hill Manor Auditorium), 501 Dutchman's Ln, Easton.

Tuesday, October 10

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** J B Churchill, VP Allegheny & Garrett Counties Bird Club, will talk about his trip to Costa Rica in April 2017, locations visited including La Ensenada, Hacienda Solimar, Cano Negro and La Selva. 7 PM. Compton Hall, Room TBA, Frostburg State University.

■ Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-0665-0769.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** BBC Board meeting. While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Held at the Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

MEETING. **Kent.** Program and Speaker TBD. 7:30 PM, Wesley Hall at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PG.** "Mom's Big Year," presented by *Nancy McAllister*. Join Nancy McAllister on her journey through a 'Mom's Big Year' of birding the U.S. Nancy traveled to hotspots from coast-to-coast to see as many birds as possible throughout 2016. She encountered beautiful birds and fascinating people along the way. A Big Year is no small feat for a mom managing all the duties that go along with three young children, a husband and two unexpected new jobs! Returning to her life-long passion for nature and travel proved to be both exhausting and exhilarating. Nancy used the Big Year to begin her journey of healing after a family tragedy and has many wonderful and heartwarming stories to share from her Big Year adventures. Hear more about how Nancy juggled life, work, and family, and used her birding adventures to heal, renew, and rediscover herself. Nancy's adventures are sure to inspire! Come and hear about how fueling **your** passion for nature can change your life too! www.momsbigyear.com. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Floor, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park.

Wednesday, October 11

■ Montgomery. Blue Mash for New Birders. Join us for the morning as we learn and review some of the basics of bird ID. Blue Mash is a great place to find our more common species as well as some of the harder to ID sparrows. This trip is primarily for new birders/new members but all are welcome. 9 AM. Meet at the parking lot off Zion Rd. For information and reservations contact leader Stephanie Lovell at amorelllovell@gmail.com.

Thursday, October 12

MEETING. **Howard.** "Rescuing Cold-stunned Sea Turtles," by *Sue Muller*, Howard County Recreation and Parks. Her presentation will take you on the rescue trip every step of the way! Learn how you can volunteer to help save endangered sea turtles as well as about actions you can take locally. The Caretta Nature tours trip to Cape Cod will be run again December 8-10, 2017. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Friday-Sunday, October 13-15

■ Frederick. Cape May Weekend. Search this wonderful area for migrating birds, especially raptors. We plan to travel to Cape May on the 13th, bird all day Saturday and Sunday morning and return Sunday afternoon. Reserve your room at the West Cape Motel (609-884-4280). Leader Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369.

Saturday, October 14

■ Allegany/Garrett. Field Trip to Town Hill. Watch for migrating hawks at a time of year when there is still good hawk diversity but we may have a better chance for some interesting birds, like Golden Eagles (with favorable weather conditions) as well. Additional dates running through Oct and Nov will be announced. 10:30 AM. Meet at the overlook. Bring lunch and a drink. Contact leader Ray Kiddy, 301-739-1972 or rrkiddy@atlanticbb.net.

■ Anne Arundel. Patuxent North Tract. The North Tract features open fields, mature forests, several ponds, access to the Little Patuxent River and marshes connected by a 12-mile driving loop. With the wide variety of habitats and fall migration, we expect to see numerous species of birds. Minimal walking is necessary as we travel to each location by vehicle. Scopes are beneficial for the ponds. Join us for a visit to northern Anne Arundel County's premier birding locale. Restroom facilities on site. 8 AM (half day). Meet at Parole P&R. Contact leader Chris Barry, 410-562-9919 or gbarry.home@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Jug Bay Wetlands. We expect marsh birds, land birds and waterfowl - for example Sora, Blue-headed Vireo, Green-winged Teal. Easy two-mile roundtrip. Entrance fee \$6 per car, so we will carpool. Meet at Nursery

Rd/Hollins Ferry Rd P&R at 8 AM, or at Jug Bay Wetlands visitor parking lot at 9 AM. Leaders Lou and Debbie Taylor, 410-852-9807 or debrataylor11@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Youth birding at Irvine. The easy trails wind through woods and fields, and we'll be looking for late fall migrants, especially sparrows, but a variety of warblers and vireos are possible, in addition to rails and snipe. The visitor center has a number of good displays, and there are several hawks and owls in the aviary outside. 9 AM. Meet at the Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Rd, Owings Mills. Leader John Robinson, 443-810-9059 (cell), 410-483-6620 (home), jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

■ Carroll. Cromwell Valley Park. Cromwell Valley is a great place to see migrants. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the parking lot at the intersection of Rts 32 and 97 to form carpools. Contact Bob Ringler at 410-303-2792.

■ Harford. Rocks SP. Spend the morning on the trails of this beautiful park looking for fall woodland species. 8 AM. Meet at the ranger station parking area on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd. Leader Mark Magnani, 410-838-1778 or mwmagnani@gmail.com.

■ Howard. UMD Central Maryland Research and Education Center. Walk the wetlands and Middle Patuxent floodplain. The tract has a history of uncommon County sightings. Waterproof footwear is advised. We will be back across the Folly Quarter Rd bridge by 9:30. Meet at the farm office's concrete parking lot (just past the office on the left) at 7:30 AM.

BIG SIT. **Howard.** UMD Open House. The Club will once again hold an informal Big Sit. All are welcome to bring a chair and sky watch or interact with the farm's visitors at the Club booth. Stop by and partake anytime that is convenient. Handicap accessible. 10 AM-3 PM. Meet just outside of the front lawn tent on the University Farm on Folly Quarter Rd. Leader Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com or 410-531-3197.

■ Talbot. Jug Bay. Special Saturday trip with Greg Kearns of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to visit Jug Bay Wetlands on a pontoon boat.

Details still being worked out at press time but this trip will have a limited number of spaces available and will require reservations. Details to be presented at October 9 meeting. 6:30 AM. Meet at Easton Acme parking lot. Contact Dave Palmer with expression of interest, dpalmermd59@gmail.com.

Sunday, October 15

■ Allegany/Garrett. Field Trip to Town Hill. Watch for migrating hawks at a time of year when there is still good hawk diversity but we may have a better chance for some interesting birds, like Golden Eagles (with favorable weather conditions) as well. Additional dates running through Oct and Nov will be announced. 10:30 AM. Meet at the overlook. Bring lunch and a drink. Contact leader Ray Kiddy, 301-739-1972 or rrkiddy@atlanticbb.net.

■ Baltimore. Oregon Ridge and Agriculture Center. Oregon Ridge is a good spot in October for warblers, thrushes, kinglets and other passerines. The Center for Maryland Agriculture, just across Shawan Rd, has a variety of open habitats; we'll look here for sparrows, meadowlark, killdeer, etc. 8 AM. Meet at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 13555 Beaver Dam Rd. Leader Simon Best, simonrabest@gmail.com.

■ Cecil. Environmental Education Day at the Hawk Watch. Join the Cecil Bird Club Hawk Watchers and folks from Elk Neck SP to learn more about hawk watching. No experience necessary! Free and open to the public. Bring binoculars if you have them but we'll have extras, as well as spotting scopes. For more information, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

■ Howard. West Friendship Park. Moderate walking along field edges and through stream valleys. Small ponds may have some surprises. Expect wet areas. Rustic facilities. 7:45 AM. Meet at shopping center just west of Rt 32 and Rt 144 to carpool to the park. Leader Jeff Culler, cullersfuls@hotmail.com or 410-465-9006.

■ Talbot. Claiborne Landing and Wades Point Inn. Spend the early morning looking through a variety of habitats including broad reaches of Eastern Bay, fields, woods, and a freshwater

pond that attracts puddle ducks as well as a nice mix of migrants. 7 AM. Meet at the Claiborne Boat Landing. Early morning leader Jeff Effinger, 410-443-5016.

Hawk Watch at Black Walnut Point. After the morning walk at Wade's Point we will view the hawk migration along the bay front at least until noon. Number of migrating hawks depends on weather and wind direction. Field guides and visual aids will be available for first time hawk watchers. Lawn chairs or folding chairs are highly encouraged. Bring drinks, lunch or snacks to relax and enjoy the show. 10 AM. Meet at the Black Walnut Point Rd parking lot near Fairbanks on Tilghman Island. Leaders Jeff Effinger, 410-443-5016, and Jan Reese, 410-745-2875.

■ Washington. Indian Springs WMA. 7 AM (half day.) Meet at the MVA lot, 18306 Col. Henry K. Douglas Dr. Contact Mark Abdy, mjabdy@yahoo.com or 301-432-7696 to participate.

Tuesday, October 17

■ Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Continuing a series of casual fall walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leader Joe Corcoran, 443-831-1811 or lcocorran2@comcast.net.

Wednesday, October 18

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "Beautiful Bhutan: Birds and Beyond" presentation by *Robert Mumford*, world traveler and prolific nature photographer. 7-9 PM, Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Montgomery.** Agriculture Reserve. There will be a short film on Montgomery County's Ag Reserve followed by a question and answer discussion on this feature that makes our county unique in the State of Maryland. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting starts at 8. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

Thursday, October 19

MEETING. **Caroline.** George Beston will speak on best practices for building and installing Bluebird Box predator guards. He will also cover predator guards for bird feeders. 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

■ Patuxent/PG. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, October 21

■ Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Ray Kandt, 336-906-0241.

■ Baltimore. Druid Hill Park. Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8 AM. Meet at 3001 East Dr. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410 558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

■ Frederick. Bird Walk at Fred Archibald Audubon Sanctuary, 6011 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market. 9-11 AM. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

■ Harford. Swan Harbor Farm Park. This preserved area near the Upper Bay provides prime habitat for water fowl, songbirds and marsh and field birds. 7:30 AM. Meet at the parking lot at the end of the driveway. Leader Dennis Kirkwood, 410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com.

■ Kent. Beginner's bird walk, Eastern Neck NWR. We'll spend the morning exploring several of the refuge's trails and overlooks, looking for a variety of migrants, including waterfowl, raptors and sparrows. 8 AM. Meet at the Tundra Swan boardwalk at the north end of the island. If you have questions, contact trip leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ Patuxent/PG. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile east of Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Tri-County. Assateague National Seashore, for coastal migrants, especially hawks, warblers and sparrows. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. 6:30 AM at the Ward Museum parking lot or 7:15 AM at the National Seashore Visitor Center parking lot (before the bridge). For information, contact Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net.

Sunday, October 22

■ Anne Arundel. Fort McHenry & Masonville Cove. We should see a wide variety of birds during the fall migration. Scopes are recommended. No restroom facilities on site. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet at the Millersville Commuter Lot to carpool to Fort McHenry to meet Wendy in the small lot to the left outside of the park's front gate. Contact leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 or drbeanes@verizon.net.

■ Howard. Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet at parking lot. Leader Russ Ruffing, ruff2@verizon.net.

■ Talbot. Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center and Terrapin Park. Two of southern Queen Anne County's top birding areas should provide numerous warblers, thrushes, orioles and early raptors. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM or meet leader at the Terrapin Park parking lot at 7:30. Leader Danny Poet, 401-827-8651.

Monday, October 23

MEETING. **Tri-county.** Program: "The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership: A united voice for Maryland's birds" with *Chris Eberly*, director, Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. 7 PM. MAC Education Center, off Snow Hill Rd., Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net, for more info.

Tuesday, October 24

■ Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Last in a series of weekly Tuesday morning walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Beginning birders welcome. 8 AM. Leaders Debbie and Lou Taylor, lougregdan@verizon.net.

POTLUCK DINNER AND MEETING. **Washington.** Enjoy a potluck dinner followed by "Mom's Big Year" with *Nancy McAllister*. Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. 6 PM dinner, 7 PM meeting. Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt Aetna Rd. Call 301-797-8454 for additional details.

Saturday, October 28

■ Allegany/Garrett. Western MD 4H Center and Cunningham Swamp. Another new trip this year. We will look for typical Garrett County fall woodland and wetland species. Dress for Garrett County weather including waterproof boots. Bring water and a snack. 8:30 AM. Meet at the entrance drive to the 4H Center. Contact leader Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ Anne Arundel. Southwest Area Park. The Park encompasses fields and marsh area along the Patapsco River. We should see late fall migrants and waterfowl at this 230-acre park. The trails are grass-covered with moderate elevation changes. No restroom facilities on site. 8 AM (half day.) Meet at Millersville Commuter Lot. Contact Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

■ Baltimore. Northampton Furnace Trail. 1-mile level trail through woods to water overlooks. Possible muddy spots, boots recommended. Telescopes might be useful for waterfowl. We expect to see sparrows, waterfowl, kinglets and perhaps Purple Finch. 8 AM. Leader Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Patterson Park. Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. Handicap accessible. 8 AM. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E. Lombard St. & S. Patterson Park Ave. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org.

■ Frederick. Lilypons/Greenfield Road. Local morning search for migrants and early waterfowl. A great trip for beginners as well as experienced birders. Trails can be uneven and overgrown. Contact leader David Smith, 410-549-7082, for meeting time and location.

■ Montgomery. Blue Mash - Remembering Lou. Our annual morning walk in honor of former MBC president and all round naturalist Lou DeMouy who passed away in the fall of 2012. This year the trip will be geared to beginning birders and new members but all are welcome. 8 AM. Reservations required. For more information, directions and reservations contact leader Andy Martin, martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066.

■ Washington. Antietam Battlefield. Birding along the Final Attack Trail. Trip is co-sponsored with Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 8 AM. Meet at the Burnside Bridge parking lot. Contact Sandy Sagalkin, sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465 to participate.

Sunday, October 29

■ Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. For sparrows, raptors, and lingering migrant songbirds. Cromwell is a great spot for fall migration. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-686-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ Harford. Bombay Hook NWR. Visit one of the East Coast's best sites for shorebirds and waterfowl. The refuge is beautiful at this time of year with an exciting array of migrating birds. Bring a lunch and drink. 7:30 AM. Meet at the MD 155/I-95 P&R near Havre de Grace. Leader Dave Larkin, 410-569-8319 or larkin3001@comcast.net.

■ Montgomery. Blackwater NWR. Early waterfowl and lingering migrants plus late afternoon marsh watch. Brown-headed Nuthatch possible. Bring lunch and drinks. Reservations required. Limit 12. Full day. Contact the leader for meeting place and time. Leader Mark England, 240-207-3132(home) or 240-375-4500(cell).

■ Talbot. Oxford & environs. Explore the newly established Oxford Natural Area for sparrows and meadowlarks. Land birding, especially fields outside of town, sometimes yields winter birds such as Horned Lark and Pipits. Breakfast host Cathy Cooper (coopercw@goeaston.net) at home in Londonderry. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM OR meet the leaders at 7:20 at the Town Park in Oxford, across from the Town Hall. Leaders Tom Corl, 202-215-1684 or

tom.corl@gmail.com and Ron Ketter, rketter@verizon.net.

Wednesday, November 1

■ **Baltimore.** First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Birding Colorado – What the Leck!" by *Dave Harvey*. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Speaker TBA. 7-8:30 PM. Senior Center, Cecil County Admin Bldg, 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton. For more information, contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Thursday, November 2

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Phil Davis* will tell us about his Azores/Madeira trip. 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms. Contact Don Hambright, 301-676-0635.

■ **Patuxent/PG.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, November 3

DINNER/MEETING. **Harford.** Speaker/topic TBA. Dinner at 6:15 PM, general meeting at 7:15 PM, presentation at 8 PM. Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd. Reservations required. Contact Johanne Henrickson, johen24@gmail.com.

Saturday-Sunday, November 4-5

MOS. Work Weekend at Irish Grove. Join others for a work weekend to help maintain the house and grounds of this Somerset County Sanctuary. Great birding opportunities as well. Stay overnight for free. There is limited sleeping space in the house and room on the grounds for tents. Contact Dotty Mumford, dottymum@comcast.net or 443-214-5154, for more details and to RSVP.

Saturday, November 4

■ **Anne Arundel.** Kinder Farm Park. Alan and Susan Young will lead this monthly trip. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of the park, and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at the Park. Contact Alan and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

■ **Carroll.** Hashawha - Concentrating on Sparrows. 8 AM (half day). Meet in the parking lot at Bear Branch Nature Center. For more information, contact Tom Miller at 410-627-4384.

■ **Cecil.** Waggoner's Gap. This has been a hawk watching site since 1948. Located near Carlisle, PA, on the ridges favored by migrating hawks, this site is known as an excellent place to see Golden Eagles in November. Pack a lunch and dress warmly—it can be very windy and cold up there. Also, be aware that this is a steep, rocky outcrop, so strong shoes or hiking boots are helpful, as is a seat cushion. 6 AM (all day.) Meet at the North East Food Lion parking lot on Route 40. No leader.

■ **Harford.** Blackwater NWR. Don't miss this opportunity to visit the Eastern Shore's 28,000 acre refuge. Established in 1933, its fresh water impoundments, brackish tidal wetlands, open fields, and mixed forests attract thousands of birds migrating along the Atlantic Flyway. The refuge is also home to many local species and Eagle and Osprey cams which can be viewed online. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Havre de Grace P&R lot at the I-95/155 exit. Leaders are Tom Gibson, 410-734-4135 or gibsonlld@aol.com, Tom Congersky, 410-658-4137 or jnjtcon@zoominternet.net, and Bob Werrlein, 410-692-5180 or we2rein@gmail.com.

■ **Howard.** Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm Sky Watch. This trip will be strictly a sky watch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies. Our main target will be Golden Eagle; while not expected, early November is the best time to catch one flying over Howard County. Last year a half-day sky watch less than a mile from this location produced an immature Golden Eagle and a Sandhill Crane, along with good numbers of Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks, plus Northern Harriers, accipiters, and

some waterfowl. We will watch the skies and tally the birds as long as conditions are productive. Hope for a north wind! Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, light-colored sun glasses, comfortable lawn chair (recliners are best), binocular, scope, and camera if you like. Participants can also walk the Conservancy trails if sky-watching proves non-productive. Facilities available. 9:30 AM (half day.) Meet at parking lot. Leader Russ Ruffing, ruff2@verizon.net.

■ Montgomery. Oaks Landfill. Explore this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views and one hill climb of moderate difficulty. Possible sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We have special permission to enter this "closed to the public" landfill so reservations are essential. Limit 16. 8 AM. Contact the leader for reservations and more information. Leader Mark England, 240-207-3132(home) or 240-375-4500(cell).



Editor's Note

Beginning with this issue, a new column will appear in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. Tentatively titled *Beyond Birding*, this will be a bit of a departure, and an opportunity for each MOS member to contribute.

The "vision" that is entertained for this regular feature is for it to be an opportunity to briefly present a topic that exists at the boundaries of birding with other human endeavors: science, culture, history, public policy....any topic of relevance to birds or birding and of potential interest to members of the Maryland Ornithological Society.

The MOS is a premier birding organization, and has been so for quite a long time. And, I suppose that birding must be at the core of our organizational identification and activities. Some

of the most avid and most skilled birders anywhere are MOS members.

That said, we are a diverse, enormously talented group with interests that extend well beyond birding. We are an "ornithological society" and that phrase alone expands our horizons beyond the lovely pastime, avocation, passion that we enjoy so much. The first item has been contributed by our *Colin Rees*, who has a great talent for uncovering interesting stories. About plant responses to insect attacks, it is clearly "beyond the border" but of real interest to us as birders since insects and plants provide food and shelter for our avian friends.

So, this is a column that won't feature one particular contributor...it will feature many MOS members. Hopefully any number of you will, over time, step forward and send an item to me. If you want to try out an idea, before sitting down to write, don't hesitate to send me a note, I would love to hear from you.



Notice of Temporary Sanctuary Closure

"The Mill Creek MOS Sanctuary in Talbot County will be closed to MOS members and the public due to deer management, from September 1, 2017- January 31, 2018."

POSTMASTER: TIME-DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE EXPEDITE!

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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos,
or ideas that would be of interest to other
birders.

Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by
September 25, 2017 for the Nov/Dec 2017 issue.

Illustrations pp. 1,11 ©M. Suzanne Probst

**MOS Chapter Web Sites (to be consulted for the most
up-to-date trip/meeting info)**

Allegany/Garrett: westernmdbirding.com/

Anne Arundel: aabirdclub.org/

Baltimore: baltimorebirdclub.org/

Caroline: carolinebirdclubmos.blogspot.com/

Carroll: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/carroll.html

Cecil: cecilbirds.org/

Frederick: frederickbirdclub.org/

Harford: harfordbirdclub.org/

Howard: howardbirds.org/

Kent: kentcounty.com/recreation/birding/birding-club

Montgomery: montgomerybirdclub.org/

Patuxent/PG: pgaudubon.org/

Talbot: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/talbot.html
Tri-County (Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset):
tricountybirdclub.weebly.com/

Washington: washingtoncountybirdclub.webs.com/

YMOS: ymos.org/

The Maryland Yellowthroat

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017



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President's Corner

Barbara Johnson

A conversation I had with Kevin Dodge at the Maryland Ornithological Society's annual conference in May of this year stayed with me. Kevin, a distinguished biology professor at Garrett College and the conference keynote speaker, spoke of the obligation he feels to promote a conservation ethic in the young and passionate birders he mentors. I quote him loosely, and he said something like this:

"I tell them that they have an obligation to these animals, beyond just ticking species and building their life lists. I let them know that *it's not just about them*. They need to be learning and teaching about the ways humans should protect birds."

Must we birders necessarily be conservationists and advocates for these creatures we study, love and admire? Obviously we've come far from the unbridled exploitation by our ornithological forbearers. Enjoyment of birds has evolved from taxidermy, caged specimens and egg-collecting into feeding stations, photography, contributing data to eBird and seasonal counts, and planting bird-friendly gardens. These are all very good things, but the threats to birds seem so much larger than we can manage. Unlike our birding ancestors, we know that entire species can die out, from the overhunting of the Passenger Pigeon and the habitat destruction of the Bachman's Warbler. We've learned about climate change and threats to critical food webs and flyway habitat. We now understand that "our" migratory birds spend more time in countries with even fewer protections than we in the USA give them.

It's easy to feel helpless, even nihilistic, in the face of burgeoning human population growth and development, political powers intractably hostile to environmental regulation, and a growing

human disconnection to wilderness. Perhaps this feeling is behind the occasional complaints I've heard as program chair for my chapter, when the monthly topic dealt with environmental issues rather than a travelog with beautiful photos. I feel the pain behind those complaints--often I, too, just want to look away.

One thing nice about a hobby is its invitation for us to escape into intellectual, physical or creative pleasures. Be it sewing, wine tasting, or reading history, an abiding interest can provide respite from the troubled world. But the pleasure we birders take is tempered with the knowledge that its very source is diminishing.

If aficionados of these other pursuits were faced with a fabric embargo, a grape famine, or an aggressive book ban, they might devote some portion of their passion to reclaiming the ground for its existence. In the face of destructive forces, Kevin Dodge posits (and I agree) that we should do so for the birds we love. The stakes are higher with our particular interest; if sewing machines, wineries or publishing houses vanish, only humans will suffer.

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I preach to an environmentally-aware choir here, and many if not most of you already sacrifice money and time to donate to conservation organizations, call your legislators, sign petitions, and generally do what you can. My car isn't all that fuel-efficient, but have you seen all the Priuses at bird club meetings?

I'm just challenging you (and myself) to find those places where we can stretch a little more. Would it kill me to spend a less on my next optical purchase and donate the remainder to an effective restoration effort? I can devote more time to reading on conservation, and participating in nature-oriented community events. And upon writing this essay, I make the overdue commitment to buy only bird-friendly coffee (from coffee.aba.org).

Some wide-reaching actions require more work and lifestyle change than others. Can you make the effort to enrich your cat's indoor environment and keep her inside? Can you help save some of the estimated 150 million birds killed by residential windows each year, and install collision deterrents at your home? Check the American Bird Conservancy website under "threats: bird collisions" for truly effective solutions.

The MOS has a Conservation Committee of which we should all be proud. Chair Kurt Schwarz vigilantly seeks out and responds to threats to birds on behalf of all members. Look for his alerts in your inbox, and help him out when he asks for your letters and comments.

We birders spend a lot of time on the road. By the time you read this, I will have sent a letter composed by MOS Long-range Planning Chair Colin Rees and myself to chapter presidents, encouraging MOS members to offset the carbon produced by their cars during field trips. We'll offer suggestions on how to go about this.

Perhaps the most effective conservation actions we can make involve not only changing old practices and adopting new ones, but actively speaking out about threats to birds. Some of those seeds will fall on barren soil, but others will take root in your legislators, friends, family and neighbors, and most importantly among the young people in your lives. It's already the Year

of the Protest, and we are many-- over 40 million in the US, by some counts. Speak out and be the change you want to see. I will, too.



Supporting Critical MOS Activities During The Holiday Season

This past year, the MOS has supported the purchase of an important inholding property at Irish Grove Sanctuary, has carried out a land survey of Mill Grove Sanctuary, and has invested in the start-up of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. MOS is now considering additional important investments on behalf of Maryland birds. All of these conservation-related activities addressing bird conservation in the state of Maryland cost money.

The Holiday Season is the time of generosity. We would like all of you to consider supporting the important initiatives undertaken by the MOS this year, as well as those in 2018.

With that in mind, the MOS is planning to reach out to all of you in the near future to ask for support for these initiatives. You may hear from us though additional outreach in future issues of the Yellowthroat, or via an email or a letter. In each instance, the MOS would welcome a donation from you—small or LARGE!

If you are ready to donate now, you can go right to the MOS website (<http://www.mdbirds.org>) and make a gift using Paypal. Alternatively, you can send a check made out to the Maryland Ornithological Society to our superb Treasurer:

David Webb
Treasurer, MOS
4141 Quail Way
Havre de Grace, MD 21078-1612

The MOS is planning to grow its activities on behalf of sanctuaries and nature conservation and, with your help, it will be able to do this. Be generous this Holiday Season!

Get Ready to Participate in the MOS Sanctuaries eBird Challenge

by Marcia Watson

MOS now owns ten sanctuaries across the state (see related articles in this issue of *Maryland Yellowthroat*), so let's visit them and see what's out there! To promote use of the MOS Sanctuaries and to build our knowledge of birds at the sanctuaries, MOS is sponsoring an eBird challenge during calendar year 2018. Birders who submit eBird checklists that meet certain rules will be entered in a drawing for prizes at the end of 2018.

The rules are simple (there is no entry fee or entry form):

- Visit all ten MOS Sanctuaries between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.
- Submit at least one checklist for each Sanctuary using the established eBird public hotspots.
- Visit the Sanctuaries in any order, at any time of your choosing. Make your own route and schedule.
- Additional visits, beyond one visit per Sanctuary, are encouraged, but will not earn you extra points.
- Be aware that Mill Creek Sanctuary will be **closed for seasonal deer management.** **Closure periods include January 1 through January 31, 2018, plus September 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019. Do not plan to visit Mill Creek then.**
- Most of the MOS Sanctuaries experience unsanctioned deer hunting; be wary of visiting during deer hunting seasons.

That's all there is to it. Just visit all the sanctuaries and submit your eBird checklists, one or more per sanctuary, and the Sanctuary Committee will review the qualifying checklists and hold a drawing for prizes early in 2019. Winners will be notified by email and will be announced in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. Prizes will be provided by donors, such as bird and nature stores in Maryland, and have not been finalized at this time.

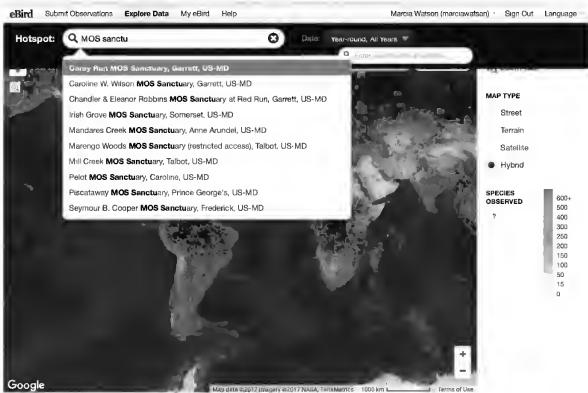
To participate, you must visit all of the ten MOS Sanctuaries during calendar year 2018:

- A. Chandler & Eleanor Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run (Garrett County)
- B. Caroline W. Wilson Sanctuary (Garrett County)
- C. Carey Run Sanctuary (Garrett County)
- D. Seymour B. Cooper Sanctuary (Frederick County)
- E. Piscataway Sanctuary (Prince George's County) - Note: this is not same place as the National Park Service property called Piscataway Park.
- F. Mandares Creek Sanctuary (Anne Arundel County)
- G. Marengo Woods Sanctuary (Talbot County)
- H. Mill Creek Sanctuary (Talbot County)
- I. Myrtle Simon Pelot Sanctuary (Caroline County)
- J. Irish Grove Sanctuary (Somerset County)

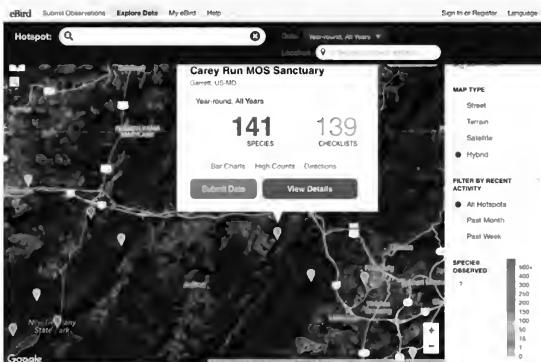
For information and directions to the sanctuaries, visit the MOS website at <http://www.mdbirds.org/sanctuary/sanctuaries.html>. An interactive Google Map showing all the sanctuaries and a PDF-format *MOS Sanctuaries Visitors Guide* are coming soon.

To find the eBird hotspots for the MOS Sanctuaries:

1. Go to the eBird Hotspot Explorer page at <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspots>.
2. Near the top left of the computer screen, look for a box that allows you to enter the name of a known hotspot.
3. Click in that box and start typing "MOS Sanctuary."
4. The screen will display a drop-down box with the names of all ten MOS Sanctuaries. See Screenshot #1.



- Click on any one of the MOS Sanctuaries from the drop-down box. This will bring up a map showing the location of the selected sanctuary, with a pop-up box containing the Sanctuary name and several options. See Screenshot #2.
 - Within the pop-up box for the selected Sanctuary, choose the green "VIEW DETAILS" box to view bird sightings and recent visits at that Sanctuary.
 - Or, choose the gray "SUBMIT DATA" box to enter your own sightings at that Sanctuary.



This eBird Challenge is being sponsored and run solely by MOS, and not by eBird or the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. If you have questions about the MOS Sanctuaries eBird Challenge, please contact MOS Sanctuary Committee member Marcia Watson at marshwren50@comcast.net.

We hope to see you out there birding at our MOS Sanctuaries!

The MOS Sanctuary Committee sends a shout-out to Frederick Chapter member Kathy Calvert for consulting with us on the MOS Sanctuaries eBird Challenge.



MOS Receives Bequest from Estate of Chan Robbins and New Sanctuary from Robbins Family

A Report from the MOS Sanctuary Committee



**Photo by Dominic Nucifora, August 2017
The Chandler and Eleanor Robbins
Sanctuary at Red Run**

MOS has learned that the late Dr. Chandler Robbins named MOS as the beneficiary of an investment fund valued at more than \$40,000. The investments are in an account with Wells Fargo and MOS Treasurer Dave Webb is working toward transferring the funds to MOS's other accounts. The bequest does not specify how MOS must use the funds, and the MOS Board of Directors decided at its meeting on September 9, 2017 to use part of the money to help purchase additional acreage at the Irish Grove Sanctuary (see related article below).

In addition, through the kindness and generosity of the children of Chandler and Eleanor Robbins -- Jane Robbins, Nancy Robbins, Stuart Robbins, and George Robbins -- MOS is acquiring an entire new sanctuary. The 45-acre property, located in the Piney Grove/Grantsville area of Garrett County, will be known as the Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run.

Jane Robbins said that her parents purchased the Garrett County property in March of 1967. They apparently had no intention to build a home there; rather, Chan and Eleanor recognized the ecological value of the property and purchased it specifically to preserve it. The Robbins children inherited the property upon Chan's death this past March, and together they decided to donate the land to MOS for use as a sanctuary, so that it will be preserved forever.

MOS expresses its sincere and lasting appreciation to the Robbins family for the gift of the land and the bequest from the estate. It is fitting that MOS now has a sanctuary bearing the names of Chan and Eleanor Robbins, because both were devoted to the MOS Sanctuary Program and worked tirelessly on behalf of the sanctuaries. For over 60 years, Chan and Eleanor provided numerous financial contributions to help MOS acquire its sanctuaries and care for them. In addition to making their own donations, both Chan and Eleanor worked resolutely on fundraising efforts to benefit the MOS Sanctuary Fund. They, and their children, also pitched in with hands-on work at the sanctuaries, such as trail-building, and of course Chan conducted and planned research studies.

The new MOS Sanctuary lies just north of I-68 and US Route 40 in Garrett County, and is bounded by Guthrie Lane to the west and Meyersdale Road to the east (see accompanying satellite image with property boundaries). The west and east sides of the property are heavily wooded, while the center is a freshwater marsh and peat bog surrounding Red Run, a stream that flows through the property and then north into Pennsylvania. Red Run is a tributary of the Casselman River, which flows into the Youghiogheny River and thence to the Monongahela River. Thus the new Sanctuary, like other parts of far western Maryland, lies in the Mississippi River watershed -- not the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



Satellite image of the new sanctuary, with property boundaries in yellow. The map also shows a foot trail from Guthrie Lane in yellow, and a place for parking ("P") along Guthrie Lane.

Red Run itself arises in Wolf Swamp, located south of I-68 in Garrett County; Wolf Swamp is a former Nature Conservancy property that is now managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Red Run and Wolf Swamp were formed in the last Ice Age, about 15,000 years ago. As such, the Red Run/Wolf Swamp complex harbors plants and animals more typical of areas farther to the north.

The Red Run area is a true ecological gem. Jane Robbins recounts how her parents came to purchase the property:

"Several of Dad's birding projects brought him to Garrett County, MD. As early as 1945, preparing *The Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* (Stewart and Robbins, 1958), he extended his intensive field work across the state. While researching his Master's thesis (George Washington University, 1950: "The Ecological Distribution of Breeding Parulidae in Maryland"), Dad conducted seven breeding bird surveys in selected Allegheny Plateau habitats.

"Dad's decades of Audubon Christmas counts, breeding bird surveys and atlas coverage continued to include Garrett County. In particular, he recognized the wealth that the Wolf Swamp habitat provided for Appalachian species--its extensive forest, its open marsh and

flowing stream, its ferns and varied ground cover. Red spruce are still thriving in Wolf Swamp. Dan Feller of the Nature Conservancy verifies that if red spruce is not currently on the family acreage, it would be a good candidate for reintroduction. The hemlock and white pine, oaks and maples continue to support black-throated blues and greens, Canadas, prothonotaries, magnolias, even an occasional Nashville warbler.

"Our parents saw the beauty of this acreage through their keen awareness of habitat impact on both breeding populations and migration success. Resolved to preserve a portion of this heritage, Chandler and Eleanor Robbins researched and purchased this 45.38 acre tract on the northern end of Wolf Swamp in March of 1967, visiting it periodically while birding in Garrett County, or in transit to West Virginia. They would both be thrilled to know the land will continue hosting its richly-varied flora and fauna, as well as delighting, with its treasures, birders new, and seasoned."

A DNR Natural Heritage Program survey conducted in the late 1980s and early 90s in the Red Run area deemed the ecological value of the Red Run Swamp to be "highly significant." That survey discovered two species that are rare in Maryland: Two-spotted Skipper (*Euphyes bimacula*), a small butterfly which is listed as State Endangered, and White-fruited Mountainrice (*Oryzopsis asperifolia*), a wetland plant listed as State Threatened. The MOS Sanctuary Committee hopes to recruit a team to conduct a thorough biological assessment of the new sanctuary, perhaps as early as the coming spring.

If You Go

The Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run, like other MOS Sanctuaries, will be open to the public for birding and nature studies, as soon as the paperwork to transfer the deed is completed. The property will be open for visits every day of year, 24 hours a day, and there will be no fee to visit. Be aware that the Sanctuary Committee has noted evidence of unsanctioned deer hunting

there, and so it would be wise to wait until after deer season to visit.

To reach the Sanctuary from I-68 in Garrett County, take Exit 24 and then turn north onto the Avilton-Lonaconing Road. Proceed a short distance (about 300 feet) and then turn left (west) onto US Route 40 Alternate (National Pike). Travel about 0.3 miles and bear right onto Guthrie Lane. Go past a couple of driveways and then make a sharp right to continue north on Guthrie Lane. Be aware that Guthrie Lane is a private road (MOS does have the right to use the road) and that parts of it are gravel and may be in poor condition. Go slow.

As you drive north on Guthrie Lane, you soon will enter a wooded area; stay alert for a spot on the right shoulder that can accommodate parking for one or two cars. (See accompanying satellite image map). Continue on foot a short way north on Guthrie Lane to a foot trail on the right that extends eastward into the wooded portion of the property. This trail continues east to approach the Red Run Swamp area.

There is currently no access into the Sanctuary from Meyersdale Road.

If you visit, please submit an eBird report to document any birds you identify at the sanctuary, and the Sanctuary Committee would also appreciate a brief written report (just a paragraph or two) describing the condition of the habitat and any plants, birds, or other animals that you identify. Please send your report to MOS Sanctuary Committee Chair Dominic Nucifora at d.nucifora@yahoo.com.

The Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run becomes the tenth sanctuary owned by MOS, protecting a total of over 2,200 acres across the state. MOS has two other sanctuaries in Garrett County: Carey Run (162 acres) and Caroline W. Wilson (86 acres). Additional sanctuaries include Seymour B. Cooper (14 acres in Frederick County); Piscataway Sanctuary (82 acres in Prince George's County); Mandares Creek (8 acres in Anne Arundel County); Mill Creek (156 acres in Talbot County); Marengo Woods (49 acres in Talbot County); Myrtle Simon Pelot (55 acres in Caroline County); and Irish Grove (1,578 acres in Somerset County). In

addition, MOS is a joint trustee of the 14-acre Adventure Conservation Park in Montgomery County, managed by the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission.

For more information on the MOS Sanctuaries, see the MOS website at <http://www.mdbirds.org/sanctuary/sanctuaries.html>. To volunteer to help at the new Robbins Sanctuary or any of the others, contact MOS Sanctuary Committee Chair Dominic Nucifora at d.nucifora@yahoo.com.

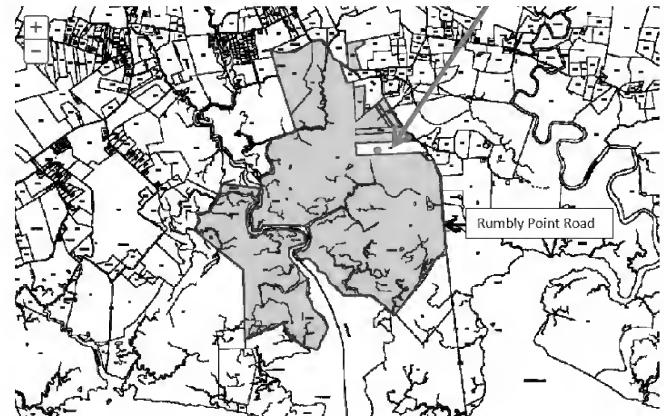


Irish Grove Sanctuary to Grow Larger; MOS to Launch Fundraising Campaign

A Report from the MOS Sanctuary Committee

At the time of this writing in mid-September 2017, MOS is in the process of negotiating the purchase of additional land for the Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary in Somerset County. If all goes well, the Sanctuary Committee expects that the purchase will be finalized by the time this issue of the *Maryland Yellowthroat* is in your hands.

The subject of the purchase is a 32-acre parcel that forms an *inholding* to Irish Grove: that is, it is a parcel almost entirely surrounded by MOS lands but currently in private ownership. The map below shows the MOS Irish Grove lands as shaded area; the inholding appears as a clear rectangle on the right, marked with an arrow. Rumbly Point Road runs roughly north-south and forms the eastern edge of the inholding parcel, as well as part of the eastern border of the Irish Grove Sanctuary. We access the house and trails at Irish Grove from Rumbly Point Road, at a point a little south of the inholding.



The parcel has been for sale for the last year or more and has been marketed as potential deer hunting property. The land is zoned for one residence. It consists of woods and marsh; there are currently no buildings on the property.

MOS is interested in acquiring the property in order to make the eastern boundary of the Irish Grove Sanctuary more regular and less complicated; a property boundary with a lot of twists and turns -- like we currently have at Irish Grove -- is more expensive to survey and to mark, and is more difficult to manage from the standpoint of controlling entry and of conducting biological assessments. (Are you standing on MOS land, or not? Is that grove of trees on MOS land, or not? Is that Saltmarsh Sparrow nest on MOS land, or not?)

And of course, the land itself has ecological value and will add to the habitats that Irish Grove offers to birds and other wildlife. Irish Grove currently includes 1,578 acres; this purchase will bring the total acreage at Irish Grove to 1,610. Every square inch of protected habitat helps our Maryland birds to thrive.

The MOS Sanctuary Committee believes that we may be able to acquire the land for approximately \$40,000, which is consistent with the cost of nearby similar properties that have been sold recently. At its September 9, 2017 meeting, the MOS Board of Directors approved making an offer for the parcel, using approximately \$21,000 from the Chandler Robbins bequest of \$40,000+ (see related article in this issue of the *Maryland Yellowthroat*), plus a similar amount to be drawn from the MOS

Sanctuary Fund. The approved amount includes anticipated legal and closing fees.

Generally, the Sanctuary Committee avoids drawing from the principle of the Sanctuary Fund and uses only the annual interest to fund sanctuary maintenance costs. To replenish the Sanctuary Fund for the purchase price of the Irish Grove inholding, and to raise money needed for sanctuary maintenance and operations throughout the state (see related article about the new Robbins Sanctuary), the Sanctuary Committee is working with newly appointed MOS Development Committee Chair Bruce Beehler to mount a fundraising campaign. The fundraising campaign will have several aspects: a direct appeal to MOS members for contributions (see donation form in this newsletter); an appeal to the public through the online GoFundMe fundraising platform (see <http://www.gofundme.com/rebuild-the-mos-sanctuary-fund>); and fundraising events such as raffles and craft fairs (stay tuned for more details on those).

Last but not least, the MOS Board of Directors has also decided to name the new parcel the "Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Tract at Irish Grove," in recognition of the Robbins bequest that makes this purchase possible, as well as providing a tip of the hat to Chan and Eleanor's special love of Irish Grove. It was a place they visited often and which they considered the "jewel in the crown" of MOS Sanctuaries. The Sanctuary Committee is expecting that the purchase of the inholding will be finalized by mid-October and that MOS members will be able to visit for the first time during the annual Irish Grove fall work weekend on November 4-5, 2017.

- To donate to the Sanctuary Fund and help pay for this land, as well as ongoing sanctuary maintenance across the state, please use the Sanctuary Fund donation form on the last page the Yellowthroat. You can donate by check or online using a credit card or a PayPal account. We need your help and appreciate your dedication to the MOS Sanctuary Program.

- To volunteer for the November 4-5 work weekend at Irish Grove, please contact Dotty Mumford at dottymum@comcast.net or 410-349-

8336. Help is needed with all kinds of tasks: housecleaning and winterizing; trail maintenance; house repairs; food preparation for the working team; and more. There will be ample opportunity for group birding during the weekend, helping to build our knowledge of birds that use the Irish Grove Sanctuary. Photography opportunities will abound. And don't miss seeing Dominic Nucifora and the new Sanctuary Committee Drone in action!

- To volunteer to help with any other aspect of the MOS Sanctuaries, please contact MOS Sanctuary Committee Chair Dominic Nucifora at d.nucifora@yahoo.com. The Committee needs your skills in hands-on sanctuary maintenance (think: hammers and nails; pruners and clippers; shovels and spades; brooms and paintbrushes), and also needs computer-based skills such as writing, graphic design, map-making, photography, videography, website-building, and so on. Fundraising skills are also needed. Volunteer Sanctuary Stewards are needed to make regular visits to a sanctuary and keep the Committee apprised of any issues or needs at that location.

- For more information about the MOS Sanctuaries, please visit the MOS website at <http://www.mdbirds.org/sanctuary/sanctuaries.html> or the MOS Sanctuaries FaceBook page (including videos!) at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Maryland.Sanctuaries>. And coming soon: an MOS Sanctuaries Channel on YouTube, courtesy of Sanctuary Committee member Liz Nucifora.

The MOS Sanctuary Committee sends a shout-out to long-time committee member Paul Bystrak, who recognized the strategic opportunity to acquire the Irish Grove inholding land and has worked diligently to enable the purchase.



Beyond Birding: MUSIC'S AUDUBON

Joy Chambers, Anne Arundel Bird Club

"It is probable that in the artistic hierarchy birds are the greatest musicians existing on our planet." Oliver Messiaen

The celebrated modern French composer, Oliver Messiaen (1908-1992), believed that birds were earth's first and best musicians. This belief was born of years of study. He began transcribing birdsongs at about age 15, always in traditional notation, always in the field, using his binoculars and a notebook. Later, as he birded around the world, he relied on accompanying ornithologists for verification that the song transcribed matched the actual sighted bird. During his 40+ years career, he included 260 birdsongs in his compositions - gleaned from Europe, North and South America, Japan, the Orient and Africa.

Messiaen was the first musician to methodically study the structure and tonality of birdsongs. His work progressed from imitations of birdsongs to highly stylized representations with other musical accompaniment depicting the bird's environment. His signature early work of 1940, *Quartet for the End of Time*, composed and initially performed while confined to a Polish concentration camp, used his relatively realistic version of bird songs to represent freedom, light and beauty in stark contrast to his horrific living conditions.

By 1968 he had created his crowning avian achievement, *Catalogue of Birds*, a re-imagination of the songs of 77 different species found in France. Each species has a highly varied song that is distinct to a particular region. Messiaen chose not to imitate the birdsong with orchestral instruments, but to create a sound cluster of orchestral notes that conveyed his subjective experience listening to the song. For example, he transposed certain song tones into the registers of the bassoon and bass clarinet. Birds cannot make sounds that low. His starting point was reality, his ending songs belong in part to his imagination and his ears.

Catalogue of Birds was the focus of a joint presentation by the Massachusetts Audubon and The Tanglewood Music Festival that my husband, Pete Bungay, and I attended in late July. The four-day program, *Tanglewood Takes Flight*, consisted of a series of piano recitals, bird walks and bird talks at Tanglewood and the nearby Mass Audubon's Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. The series began at 5:30 am July 27 at Pleasant Valley with a guided bird walk followed by French pianist Pierre-Laurent

Aimard's recital of three movements from *Catalogue of Birds* (Curlew, Tawny Owl and Woodlark). The event moved back to Tanglewood where Aimard was joined by Wayne Petersen, Mass Audubon's chief ornithologist, to discuss the connections between birdsongs and music.

That night, Aimard performed a keynote recital at Tanglewood's main hall demonstrating the ways composers utilized birdsongs in their work. He began with French baroque composer Daquin's nearly literal depictions. His next selections from Schumann, Ravel and Bartok demonstrated the increasing movement from realistic birdsongs into imaginative recreations conveying the feelings of the composer listening to the song. Finally, Aimard presented Messiaen pieces interspersed with electronic recordings of birdcalls. His audience could hear the literal birdcall immediately followed by Messiaen's crushing tone clusters and fractured rhythms, could plainly hear how the original songs were barely recognizable, and how they were a personal vision derived from a lifelong love and study of birds.

The remaining ten movements of *Catalogue of Birds* were performed by the fellows of the Tanglewood Music Center over the next three early mornings at Pleasant Valley. Participants heard Messiaen's re-imagination of the 77 species in a cumulative 3 hours of piano recitals while alternately enjoying the woodland walks listening to elusive birdsongs under the tutelage of expert birders.

Is there any scholarly importance to the study of the connection of birdsongs to music? Some musicologists speculate that Messiaen, a devout Catholic, believed this connection demonstrated the oneness of the universe, that humanity's attempt at music might be an offspring of birdsongs. We marveled, while on the Pleasant Valley birdwalks, at our increased ability to identify birdsongs when we perceived them as music, paying attention to their timing, pitch and rhythms. At any rate, intently concentrating for three hours of listening to the *Catalogue of Birds* in attempts to decipher Messiaen's version of a birdsong, sharpened our listening skills in a pleasurable, and highly recommended, way.



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Birding in Tuscany and Emilia Romano

In June, I went to Florence as a pre-trip before joining friends in Sienna. With two days to explore museums and food, I originally put birding on the back burner. Luckily I carried my small binoculars with me just in case. Staying on a quiet side street near the Duomo, my first bird was a Redstart. His quivering tail while singing was the defining clue. Later in the day I went to take pictures of the Ponte Vecchio at sunset. A Black-Crowned Night Heron flew by and I followed it to the next bridge crossing the Arno River, where it had landed. I also spotted Grey Herons and Yellow-legged gulls. The next morning I ventured to Boboli Gardens and found a wilder area with a compost pile. There I found a Spotted Flycatcher, Serin, Blue Tit, and European Robin. The rest of my trip included Sienna and the Hill Towns of Emilia Romagna. In the Apennines with more trees, things got more interesting. Luckily my hotel in Vidiciatico overlooked a small park. I saw beautiful Green Finches, Black Redstarts, House Martins, Swift, Pied Wagtail, Carrion Crow, European Starling, and Collared Dove. In one small town I spotted a lovely Chaffinch singing. Many towns hosted European Blackbirds, Eurasian Tree Sparrows, House Sparrows, Magpies, Jays, European Goldfinch and Song Thrushes. The one unidentifiable bird was some sort of falcon. I noticed some Italians admiring the bird and asked they could identify it and the answer was Falcon! *Kim Hudema*

CARROLL COUNTY

The Carroll County Bird Club presented a check for \$322.00 to Bear Branch Nature Center. This money was generated from the Youth Art Contest sponsored by the club and supported by

the MOS. Thirteen of the young artists donated their work to be offered in a silent auction to benefit the nature center. All artwork was on display at Bear Branch from April 22nd to May 19th. Shown in the photo is Nicole Myers, Naturalist at Bear Branch Nature Center accepting the check. *Don Jewell*



Photo by Mary Jewell

CECIL COUNTY

Time for a new look. The Cecil Bird Club web site has a new look and feel to it. Since the club's web master and jack of all trades *Pat Valdata* jumped ship and moved to Crisfield, club President *Maryanne Dolan* has been working her tail off learning new computer and web design skills. The Cecil Bird Club web site can be found at cecilbirds.org. Keep your eyes out for some great bird photos by club member *Sean McCandless* as well.

Besides the Cecil Bird Club organizing and running their own field trips, club member *Ken Drier* has been contacted by both the Mount Harmon Plantation and the Fair Hill Natural Resource Area about the possibility of doing bird walks on their respective properties this fall. Ken has agreed to help both organizations. The Mount Harmon Plantation walk will be Sunday October 29th from 1-3:00 in the afternoon. The Fair Hill walk will be Saturday, November 18th at 8:00. This trip is on the Cecil Bird Club's calendar as well.

Ken and Kim Drier returned from a brief trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota in the middle of the summer. They stayed at the Buffalo Gap Ranch just outside the town of Medora and the park entrance. While the two sections of the park, sixty miles apart, provided great wildlife viewing opportunities, it was the ranch that produced the best birding. While driving the park roads numerous herds of buffalo were spotted. In one instance the beasts were actually in the road blocking traffic. Prairie Dog towns stretched to the horizon. These also presented plenty of drama, with coyotes and badgers working together to secure a meal. These were the first badgers ever encountered by Kim and Ken. Not to be left out were Kim's favorite find, the wild horses and baby colt. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Ken was able to find a Sharp-tailed Grouse family living by the side of the entrance road. Walking the property early mornings proved productive. Common Nighthawk, Western Kingbird, Black-billed Magpie, Townsend's Solitaire, the only life bird, a Sprague's Pipit, and Loggerhead Shrike were all recorded. Lazuli and Lark Buntings could be seen along the fences with the daily Lark Sparrows. A Long-billed Curlew was a great find while I was taking pictures of hay bales in a rain storm. Though gone only six days the trip was highly successful. *Ken Drier*

TRI-COUNTY

Having retired at the beginning of the year, *Doug and Sally Ruby* celebrated that event with a Big Year for 2017. They have visited 27 states and two Canadian provinces; the current total is 561 plus 7 uncountable parrots. Doug has added 24 lifers to date. Looks like the original goal of 600 can be broken. Since there has been at least a trip per month and during April, May and June they were almost constantly on the road, it is hard to condense the year so far. However it has been a year to remember. Highlights so far include trips to the Everglades in January; the Sax-Zim Bog festival in February with temperatures in the 60s; the prairie chicken run in Colorado in April (with the Gunnison Sage-grouse lekking in the far distance seen through scopes); a drive from south Texas back to Maryland in April; several days in the Magee

Marsh Ohio and Point Pelee Ontario area; Alaska including a trip to Nome in June; and a brief run to Newfoundland. Three days at Magee Marsh and Point Pelee got numerous Blackburnian and Cape May warblers plus an accommodating Kirtland's Warbler! A pelagic trip from Hatteras NC was hampered by the disruption of electricity to the island but we went anyway. Future trips include going to southern California, the Outer Banks, Rio Grande Valley and Florida again. A pelagic trip out of Monterey CA will be almost all new birds. *Doug Ruby*

JoAnn Wilber was honored at the Ward Museum's volunteer picnic on Sept. 14 as the volunteer who contributed the highest number of hours over the past year. JoAnn received this distinction for the second year in a row! Way to go, JoAnn! A number of Tri-County members including *Betty Pitney* and *Ellen Lawler* also volunteer at the Ward Museum, and Ellen was recognized at the picnic for volunteering over 100 hours in the past year.

Tri-County welcomes *Mary Huebner* who recently returned to the Eastern Shore after living in Cumberland (and serving as president of the Allegany/Garrett chapter) for a number of years. Mary plans to serve as the state director for both the Tri-County and Allegany/Garrett chapters for the coming year. Thanks, Mary!

Ellen Lawler



The Future of Ornithology

By Colin Rees, Anne Arundel, Chair, Long-range Planning Committee

The previous article provided some background to imagining how birders and ornithologists would embrace the challenges of the 21st century. This second article attempts to envision how the further evolution of ornithology might deploy various skills, tools and techniques to the benefit of bird populations and their habitats.

Identification and classification

Both amateur and professional ornithologists have profited from the abundance of field guides and advanced manuals differentiating species and plumage variations and detailing stages of molt and wear. These tools are rapidly evolving into electronic formats offering animations and soundtracks along with maps and other information for the user to identify birds by view or song, quickly and accurately (currently, 3D models of birds in all plumages, rotatable and pinch-zoomable options are being made available).

In parallel, as the means for collecting DNA data and analyzing large sets become more accessible and less costly, the patterns of avian evolution are being better understood. A comprehensive phylogeny of families is nearing completion, and new insights are being gained into historical patterns of speciation and current distributions. An ambitious project by Thomas Jetz at Yale University, uses DNA-sequence data to create a phylogenetic tree – a branching map of evolutionary relationships among all 9,993 known living bird species – that also links global bird speciation rates across space and time. In turn, Douglas Alshuler and research workers at the University of British Columbia are finding that speciation rates have been much higher on average in the New World than in the Old World, but have not been any higher in the tropics compared with the temperate zone. This suggests that the higher diversity in tropical zones is due to longer residence, not higher rates of speciation.

The expansion of the database on global bird voice will also assist studies in taxonomy, classification and evolution, and the investigation of brain structure and function.

With nearly 600 species of the world's birds in danger of becoming extinct, conserving genetically distinct and threatened species will prove especially challenging as many of them are far from species-rich areas which enjoy protection. Jetz and other biologists are confronting this problem by applying a criterion called evolutionary distinctiveness, a quantitative measure of genetic or evolutionary uniqueness. Such a "metric helps conservationists prioritize which birds most deserve attention".

Bird behavior and population studies

Though largely anecdotal in the early decades of the 20th century, behavioral studies of

birds diversified greatly in its second half, with research workers using model species to provide important insights into such aspects as optimal foraging, cognition, sexual selection, mating systems, cooperation, communication, and navigation. With the theoretical ideas and knowledge thus gained and to be gained in this century, long-term studies of single species will have practical applications for wildlife management and monitoring the impact of humans on the natural environment. However, employing behavioral studies in conservation has proven disappointing, in part because they are labor intensive and often time consuming, the latter invariably at variance in addressing conservation problems requiring a rapid response. Practical enterprises in which animal behavior could help to solve certain conservation problems include studies on responses to land use change, use of biological corridors, reserve design, reintroduction, and restoration.

Bird population studies have attempted to understand the causes behind fluctuations of bird numbers in a particular area by examining birth and death rates, emigration, and immigration. Professionals and citizen scientists alike have collected information on numbers and population parameters for analysis by such organizations as the Cornell Laboratory for Ornithology. This has allowed long-term population studies to focus on mechanisms controlling or regulating numbers and the role of intrinsic and extrinsic factors. A particular challenge will be to determine the influence of climate change by performing the relevant calculations to predict the future of bird populations, especially those considered most vulnerable, and in defining conservation strategies.

Bird movements

The movement of birds, whether local regional or continental, has long seized the imagination of ornithologists and bird watchers, and one can be confident that its study will deepen, especially for its value to conservation science. Specialists in this area suggest that future research priorities should focus on the movements of North American bird populations of high conservation value to North and South America and, indeed, the world. They ask how breeding warbler populations in North America may be conserved, if it is not known what threats occur on their wintering grounds or on their

migration routes and fattening areas? How can the impacts of loss and fragmentation of forest within North America on their breeding populations be predicted, if it is not known how far they normally disperse? Finally, how can the wintering populations of waterfowl, waders, thrushes, and finches be conserved, if the sites of their largest gatherings and movements on the islands remain unknown?

Some have argued that international agreements need to be honored or enhanced, along with domestic legislation in favor of site-based conservation. And while protected areas will contribute to conserving some of these species, others may suffer because of insufficient habitat, especially for large concentrations. The Connecticut Audubon Society's *Protecting and Connecting Large Landscapes* and Audubon's conservation of hemispheric flyways provide examples of how the 'wider landscape' may be captured for conservation interventions; in the meantime, more targeted approaches are being tried, including such schemes as coastal stewardship and the American Bird Conservancy's partnering with ranchers to protect grasslands in key Mexican wintering areas for migrating birds. In Maryland, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is promoting landscape conservation design through collaborative partnerships at the regional scale.

The evolution of nanotechnology will dictate the future directions for tracking large-scale avian movements. Currently, the miniaturization of existing devices is the main focus so that satellites can track smaller birds. They will provide information on a bird's physiological responses to its environment or measure aspects of habitats occupied by birds. As the specific interests of individual scientists largely drive such innovations, it is hard to predict where the next advances will be made. However, the overall trend will be to have tiny devices that will remotely track birds and report on aspects of their behavior, physiology, and ecology. They will be particularly critical to characterizing the remoter ends of migration and in defining conservation strategies.

Means to monitor and record bird movements using microphones to record bird vocalizations and developing software packages to assist the identification of the sounds are being developed. Scientists are also exploring the use of cameras mounted on drones to conduct aerial surveys of sites difficult to access on foot.

Although these projects are at very experimental stages, rapid advances are expected once technical issues are resolved (Tom Stephenson, pers. comm.)

Social media make it increasingly easier to organize activities at larger geographic scales and to collect information on specific events across broad regions. This goes beyond eBird – relying as it does on the voluntary submission of data – and encourages the organization of groups of interested, experienced individuals to conduct specific surveys and collect data to address a specific event. Such efforts fall largely in the realm of 'citizen scientists', allowing for better understanding of regional or even continental phenomenon in an almost 'real time' framework.

Collections

The issue of whether birds should continue to be actively collected for research is subject to lively debate among leading ornithologists. One party contends that much of current collecting is being promoted by competition between museums and not by scientific rationale with the result that collection of some species may threaten bird populations. Thus, digital photography and blood sample analysis of trapped birds should be promoted and, with loss of habitats and imperiled ecosystems, ornithologists should provide an example to the community not to kill or hunt birds. On the other hand, supporters of continued collecting argue that their acquisitions are a modest and a non-additive proportion of annual bird mortality compared to the millions of birds lost each year to habitat decline, domestic cats, the pet trade, window strikes, and tower/wind power kills. They also argue that the alternative of taking small blood samples reduces survival by as much as 33% (and does not provide the benefits of a voucher specimen); furthermore, collecting for research offers the only source of avian mortality with a positive gain to the biological knowledge of birds.

Distribution and food

Brave attempts have been made over the last few centuries to define the distribution of bird species, but it was not until the advent of systematic, long-range studies that substantive knowledge was gained. Foremost were the Atlases of Breeding Birds championed by Chandler Robbins. While early atlases focused on

the presence or absence of species and their breeding, there has been a marked trend towards indicating abundance or relative abundance. The data generated may also be used in developing sampling and survey designs for in-depth studies. With more resilient data at hand, the newer atlases are being used increasingly by planners, conservationists, and research workers.

The skills of the amateur are critical – Nest Record Scheme, Breeding Bird Survey, etc. – and have attracted thousands of dedicated participants. Their continuing enthusiasm and commitment are viewed as the hallmarks of the purposeful bird watcher; there is every expectation that this will be sustained. Advances in online data management and visualization allow scientists to map large-scale migratory movements, understand the ecological conditions of stopovers, assess population trends, and determine the effects and extent of human induced impacts on the natural environment. Internet applications such as eBird, a real-time online checklist program, capitalize on observations made by birders any time, anywhere.

The final article will review advances in understanding the full annual cycle, climate change and the implications for conservation.

MD/DC Records Committee News and Regional Taxonomy Updates

as of September 17, 2017

By Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary

The following are updates from the Maryland Ornithological Society's MD/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC):

1. Membership. At the committee's Annual Meeting, three voting members rotated off the committee at the end of their three-year terms. The committee thanks those members for their service. They are: Marcia Balestri, Hugh McGuiness, and Russ Ruffing. Elected to new three-year terms to fill their places are: Barry Cooper (Montgomery Co.), Keith Costley (Baltimore Co.), and Sean McCandless (Cecil Co.). Matt Hafner was re-elected Chair and your humble scribe was re-elected Secretary.

2. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting. A detailed annual business report and the minutes of the MD/DCRC 2017 Annual Meeting have been posted to the committee's web page and can be found [here](http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/pdf/rcannual2017.pdf) ...

<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/pdf/rcannual2017.pdf>

3. Goals and Procedures Document. The committee's Goals and Procedures document, which governs our operations, was updated and has been posted to our web page. It can be found [here](http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/pdf/rcoals.pdf) ...

<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/pdf/rcoals.pdf>

4. Web Document Updates. The committee posted updates to our data-oriented documents on our committee web page (<http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>). Here, you can find the updated Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC; updated MD and DC Review Lists, updated abridged MD and DC database summaries, plus other committee information.

5. New MD and DC Species News. The following are changes to the Official Lists of the Birds of DC and MD:

- MD Additions: So far in 2017, no new species were added to the MD List; however, since Thayer's Gull was lumped with Iceland Gull (see below), MD loses one species, so the current species total for MD is now 449.

- DC Additions: So far in 2017, the following species were added to the DC Official List: Black-throated Gray Warbler, Sandhill Crane, and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck. Since Thayer's Gull was lumped with Iceland Gull (see below), DC loses one species, so the current species total for DC is 338.

6. Regional Taxonomy Changes. We had reported earlier that the AOS (formerly, the AOU) was considering some splits, lumps, and name change proposals that would affect our regional lists. Most of these expected proposed changes were NOT adopted by the AOS Checklist Committee:

PROPOSALS NOT ADOPTED:

The following species were **NOT** split: Willet, Brown Creeper, Yellow-rumped Warbler,

Nashville Warbler, and Bell's Vireo. The redpolls were **NOT** lumped. The common name of Ring-necked Duck was **NOT** changed to Ringed-billed Duck. Wilson's Phalarope and Cattle Egret were **NOT** moved to new genera.

PROPOSALS

ADOPTED:

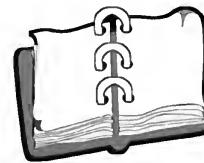
However, the AOS Checklist Committee **DID** lump Thayer's Gull with Iceland (and, hence, Kumlien's) Gull. This reduces the total number of species on the MD and DC lists each by one. The common name of Le Conte's Sparrow (and Le Conte's Thrasher) **WAS** changed to reflect the correct family spelling: LeConte's Sparrow. Our Northern Harrier was split from the extralimital Hen Harrier and as a result, the scientific name our Northern Harrier **WAS** changed to *Circus hudsonias*. The Yellow-breasted Chat **WAS** moved out of the warblers and into its own genus, *Icteria*. The Northern Shrike scientific species **WAS** changed to *Lanius borealis*.

The taxonomic order of a number of species changed again. Some ordering changes were made in the Geese and Ducks (where the genus *Chen* was merged with *Anser*), Whimbrel was moved to follow Upland Sandpiper, American Woodcock was moved to follow Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were swapped [note that they are not contiguous], Evening Grosbeak was moved in front of Pine Grosbeak, and the redpolls were moved in front of the crossbills. Some larger blocks of passerines were moved: The towhees through juncos, the chat, the blackbirds, and Bobolink though the orioles, were all moved to follow Snow Bunting.

A Note of Interest to North American

Listers. If you want to add a new species to your North American, US, or ABA list, you can travel to the South Hills of Idaho where the endemic subspecies of Red Crossbill has been elevated to a full species, called the Cassia Crossbill (*Loxia sinesciurus*) [named for Cassia County, ID].

Good (armchair) birding!



MOS Calendar

Nov - Dec 2017
By Marilyn VEEK

Wednesday, November 1

■ **Baltimore.** First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Birding Colorado - What the Leck!" by *Dave Harvey*. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Speaker TBA. 7-8:30 PM. Senior Center, Cecil County Admin Bldg, 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton. For more information, contact **Maryanne Dolan**, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Thursday, November 2

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Phil Davis* will tell us about his Azores/Madeira trip. 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms. Contact Don Hambright, 301-676-0635.

■ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, November 3

DINNER/MEETING. **Harford.** Speaker/topic TBA. Dinner at 6:15 PM, general meeting at 7:15 PM, presentation at 8 PM. Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd. Reservations required. Contact **Johanne Henrickson**, johen24@gmail.com.

Saturday-Sunday, November 4-5

MOS. Work Weekend at Irish Grove. Join others for a work weekend to help maintain the house and grounds of this Somerset County Sanctuary. Great birding opportunities as well. Stay overnight for free. There is limited sleeping space in the house and room on the grounds for tents. Contact Dotty Mumford, dottymum@comcast.net or 443-214-5154, for more details and to RSVP.

Saturday, November 4

■ Anne Arundel. Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of the park, and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at the Park. Contact leaders Alan and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

■ Carroll. Hashawha - Concentrating on Sparrows. 8 AM (half day). Meet in the parking lot at Bear Branch Nature Center. For more information, contact Tom Miller at 410-627-4384.

■ Cecil. Waggoner's Gap. Located near Carlisle, PA, on the ridges favored by migrating hawks, this site is known as an excellent place to see Golden Eagles in November. Pack a lunch and dress warmly—it can be very windy and cold up there. Also, be aware that this is a steep, rocky outcrop, so strong shoes or hiking boots are helpful, as is a seat cushion. 6 AM (all day). Meet at the North East Food Lion parking lot on Rte 40. No leader.

■ Harford. Blackwater NWR. Don't miss this opportunity to visit the Eastern Shore's 28,000 acre refuge. Its fresh water impoundments, brackish tidal wetlands, open fields, and mixed forests attract thousands of birds migrating along the Atlantic Flyway. The refuge is also home to many local species and Eagle and Osprey cams which can be viewed online. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Havre de Grace P&R lot at the I-95/155 exit. Leaders are Tom Gibson, 410-734-4135 or gibsonlld@aol.com, Tom Congersky, 410-658-4137 or jnjtcon@zoominternet.net, and Bob Werrlein, 410-692-5180 or we2rein@gmail.com.

■ Howard. Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm Sky Watch. This trip will be strictly a sky watch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies. Our main target will be Golden Eagle; while not expected, early November is the

best time to catch one flying over Howard County. Last year a half day sky watch less than a mile from this location produced an immature Golden Eagle and a Sandhill Crane, along with good numbers of Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks, plus Northern Harriers, accipiters, and some waterfowl. We will watch the skies and tally the birds as long as conditions are productive. Hope for a north wind! Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, light-colored sun glasses, comfortable lawn chair (recliners are best), binocular, scope, and camera if you like. Participants can also walk the Conservancy trails if sky-watching proves non-productive. Facilities available. 9:30 AM (half day). Meet at parking lot. Leader Russ Ruffing, ruff2@verizon.net.

■ Kent. Eastern Neck Refuge Walk sponsored by Friends of Eastern Neck, Inc. Plan for a flat, two-mile outing, with opportunities to view waterfowl and other wildlife. Dress warmly and wear boots. No rain date. Registration is required and limited to 20 participants: <http://bit.ly/2vWPDBt>. 8 AM. For more information contact Gren Whitman, easterneckwalks@gmail.com or 443-691-9370.

■ Montgomery. Oaks Landfill. Explore this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views and one hill climb of moderate difficulty. Possible sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We have special permission to enter this "closed to the public" landfill so reservations are essential. Limit 16. 8 AM. Contact the leader for reservations and more information. Leader Mark England, 240-207-3132(home) or 240-375-4500(cell).

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Tri-county. Irish Grove Sanctuary, for migrating and resident marsh species and to help with the annual workday. Lunch will be provided; our club will be bringing desserts, so contributions to that will be appreciated. 7:30 AM at the Ward Museum parking lot or 8:15 AM at Irish Grove. We need to have a head count one week before the trip, so please let Ellen know if

you plan to attend. For information, contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

Washington. Ag Center. Birding followed by a country breakfast. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Washington County Agricultural Center, 7313 Sharpsburg Pike. Call George Warrick at 301-799-9059 for details.

YMOS. Chincoteague NWR. This is a great opportunity to get a good look at a lot of bird species. Waterfowl will be back, and Chincoteague provides a unique opportunity to explore many types of habitats. Lodging will be provided Fri and/or Sat nights for students coming from a distance. 8 AM. Meet at CNWR. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

Sunday, November 5 (Daylight Saving Time ends)

Baltimore. Irvine Nature Center. A great spot for sparrows, raptors and other birds of this transitional season. 9 AM. Leaders Tina Snyder, 443-204-7590 or tinakatsampis@aol.com and Peter Lev, 410-823-2962 or plev@comcast.net.

Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. 8 AM, 2-3 hrs. Meet at west end parking lot. Leaders Karen and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731 or kjheff122@gmail.com.

Talbot. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington, DC. Explore one of DC's birding gems operated by the National Park Service. Located off Hwy 295, south of Rt 50, about 75 minutes from Easton. 6:30 AM. Depart Easton Acme parking lot. Leaders Paul and Priscilla Thut, 410-745-6657 or pdthut@hughes.net.

Tuesday, November 7

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Bill Bitman on "Photographing Birds in Flight." Bill is a Baltimore-based photographer who expresses his love of nature through wildlife portraits, wildlife

action photographs, and sweeping landscape images. A number of his images have appeared in the Baltimore Sun, the Smithsonian Zoogoer magazine, and the National Zoo's yearly calendar. Bill published an in-depth how-to book entitled Successful Nature Photographs and How to Create Them, which is available as an e-book and in a printed edition. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:20 PM. Held at the Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

Wednesday, November 8

MEETING. **Montgomery.** Greg Kearns on "Wild Rice". Greg is returning to follow up with a talk on his 30-year program to establish wild rice in the Patuxent Bay. He has been successful in reestablishing the rice and making the Bay an important stop over for ducks and Sora. Potomac Presbyterian Church. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 PM and meeting starts at 8 PM.

Thursday, November 9

MEETING. **Howard.** "Owls in Myth and Culture-a Global Perspective," by *David H. Johnson*, Director, Global Owl Project. What people believe about owls makes a difference in how they protect and conserve them. GLOW is a non-profit consortium of some 450 researchers, museum curators, students and volunteers working in 65 countries. This presentation will describe the methods, cultural insights and results of their findings. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Friday, November 10

Montgomery. Basics of Sparrow ID at Hughes Hollow. Sparrows are often referred to as LBJs (little brown jobs) because of the initial difficulty in sorting them out. Hughes Hollow is a good place to spend the morning learning and reviewing basic field marks that are key to identification. In addition to common species, like White-throated and Song and Swamp, we'll keep an eye out for less-likely White-crowned and Field. This trip is primarily for beginners but all are welcome. Limit 8. For reservations, time, and directions, contact one of the co-leaders, Lydia Schindler, lydia13621@gmail.com, or Linda Friedland, linnet1@verizon.net.

■ Washington. Lambs Knoll Banding Station. Observe Saw-whet Owl banding by Steve Huy at Lambs Knoll. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a flashlight, and be prepared to stay as late as midnight. Children are welcome. 9:15 PM. Meet at the Boonsboro P&R. Contact Anna Hutzell, amp8185@aol.com or 301-797-8454, to register.

Saturday, November 11

■ Allegany/Garrett. Shawnee SP and Alleghany Front Plateau. Lunch at Jean Bonnett Tavern in Bedford. 10 AM. Meet at the Diehl Boat Ramp off Rt 96. Carpool from Cumberland will leave from the upper section of Roses Store parking lot in downtown Cumberland at 9 AM. Leader Melissa Hensel, mjhensel@yahoo.com or 240-362-1086.

■ Baltimore. Youth birding at Patterson Park. This easy-access urban park has a surprisingly diverse variety of birds that can be found during the year, and we can expect winter residents (and possibly unusual visitors) in both the brushy areas and on the lake. 8 AM. Park along S Patterson Park Ave, and meet at the fountain north of the pagoda, just inside the entrance off South Patterson Park Ave at Lombard St. Leader John Robinson, 443-810-9059 (cell), 410-483-6620 (home), or jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

■ Harford. Wild Card Waterfowl Tour. Leader Dave Webb will determine trip sites based on recent sightings. Contact Dave (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net) for specific details about start time and location as well as possible sightings.

■ Howard. Sharps at Waterford Farm. Moderate walking over crop stubble, farm roads and paths on this working farm. Fields with crop residue, extensive woodlands, Cattail Creek and floodplain, three ponds and five shallow waterfowl impoundments make for diverse habitats and good birding opportunities. Port-a-pots available. Knee-high waterproof footwear is advisable for part of hike. 8 AM (half day). Meet at farm parking area, through barns on right. Leader Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com, 410-531-3197.

Saturday, November 11 or Sunday, November 12

■ Frederick. Local Hawk Watch. Tom Humphrey (240-793-2508) will lead a search for migrating hawks. Date dependent on weather conditions.

Sunday, November 12

■ Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. A monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. The park has waived the \$6 per car Park entry fee for these trips. 8-11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM (half day). Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410 626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

■ Caroline. Chincoteague NWR. 7 AM. Meet at Denton Rite Aid parking lot to car pool.

■ Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. 8 AM, 2-3 hrs. Meet at west end parking lot. Leader Mary Lou Clark, doctorfx_99@yahoo.com.

■ Talbot. Wye Island. In search of waterfowl, sparrows, and possible late migrants.

Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM OR meet Danny at the Wye Island Bridge at 7:30 AM. Leader Danny Poet, 410-827-8651.

Monday, November 13

MEETING. **Talbot.** Carter Ong Smith of St. Michaels will give a presentation on "East African Raptors". 7 PM. Bayleigh Chase Auditorium (aka William Hill Manor Auditorium), 501 Dutchman's Lane, Easton.

Tuesday, November 14

BOARD MEETING. **Baltimore.** While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions.

Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

MEETING. Kent. Program and speaker TBA. 7:30 PM. Game Room at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. Light refreshments follow the program.

MEETING. Patuxent/PGAS. "Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership: A United Voice for Maryland's Birds" presented by *Christopher Eberly*. He will present how and where the Partnership is working and how you can become a part of this exciting conservation partnership. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Floor, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park.

Wednesday, November 15

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "From Mountains to Saltmarsh; Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries" with *Marcia Watson* and *Dominic Nucifora*. Marcia will review the history of the MOS Sanctuary Program, provide profiles and show maps and photos of all the sanctuaries, discuss the birds and habitats found there, and will cover some of the challenges that MOS faces in managing the properties. Marcia will conclude with suggestions on how interested individuals can become involved with the sanctuaries. 7-9 PM. Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Blackwater NWR. Wintering waterfowl, eagles and other raptors, lingering shorebirds and songbirds. 9 AM. Meet at the Bowie P&R to carpool. Reservations required; limited to 10 participants. Must contact leader Barbara Ricciardi, barbararicciardi27@gmail.com, in advance for reservations.

Thursday, November 16

MEETING. Caroline. Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper, "The State of the Choptank River: a review of our current water quality sampling results and local initiatives." 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St., Denton.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of

Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, November 18

ANNUAL BANQUET. Allegany/Garrett. Dave Brinker, Central Regional Ecologist, MD DNR, Wildlife and Heritage Service, will talk about Goshawks nesting in Western Maryland. The cost of the dinner is \$25. 5 PM. Penn Alps, Grantsville. For info contact Carol McDaniel mcdanieljandc@gmail.com. Please mail your check to Carol McDaniel, 437 Serenity Dr, Grantsville, MD 21536. Reservations must be made by Nov 16.

■ Anne Arundel. North Point SP has many miles of trails that meander through woods and along the bay. There is a visitor center for the obvious conveniences and in November we should get a good mix of woodland, field and shore birds. Bring lunch and drinks. There is a fee per car and it will take at least an hour to get there. 7:30 AM (full day). Meet at Millersville Commuter Lot. Contact Judy Brennan, 410-280-2487 or el.judith@gmail.com.

■ Baltimore. Hydes Road Park. For the last few years this northern Baltimore County park has been hosting rare sparrows and other meadow birds. 8:30 AM. Meet in the parking lot. Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com. Leader Hugh Simmons.

■ Baltimore. Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 or drbeanes@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Druid Hill Park. Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8-9:30 AM. Meet at 3001 East Dr. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Ctr at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

■ Cecil. Fair Hill WMA. Fair Hill is one of Cecil County's birdiest spots. A variety of habitats,

including woods, fields and wetlands, means that we will see a number of different spring migrants. Portions of the trail may be muddy, so boots are recommended. 7 AM (half day). Meet at the Foxcatcher Farm Covered Bridge parking lot near the Fair Hill Nature and Environmental Center on Tawes Dr. There is an honor system daily fee (\$3 Maryland residents; \$4 out-of-state visitors). Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

Frederick. Audubon Society of Central MD Nature Walk. 9-11 AM. Audrey Carroll Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Rd, Mt Airy. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

Harford. Sweet Air section of Gunpowder Falls SP. Explore a variety of trails that meander among pines, deciduous woods, open fields, and riparian habitats. 8:30 AM. Meet in the Dalton-Bevard Rd parking area west of Rtes 165 and 152. Leader Susan Hood, 410-937-7552 or susanjhood@comcast.net.

Patuxent/PGAS. Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rte 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, November 19

Baltimore. Ashland NCR Trail and Paper Mill Flats. Trip to two locations for marsh birds, wintering waterfowl and late fall songbirds. Bring spotting telescope if you have one. 8:30 AM. Meet at NCR Trail parking lot, N side of Ashland/Paper Mill Rd. Leaders Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net, and Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com.

Howard. Centennial Park. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. 8 AM, 2-3 hrs. Meet at west end parking lot. Leaders Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrpeters.org.

Montgomery. Occoquan Bay NWR, VA. Half day. Explore the diverse habitats in this one-square mile refuge at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers. A variety of

raptors and migratory warblers, vireos, thrushes and flycatchers should be present, and rails and bitterns are possibilities. Reservations required. Limit 25. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at the parking lot in the center of the refuge. Leaders Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com, and Gerry Hawkins, 571-277-8406 or maineusa@comcast.net.

Talbot. Pickering Creek Audubon Center. A return to Pickering Creek looking for arriving waterfowl and sparrows and some vagrant species. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM OR meet at Pickering Creek parking lot at 7:20 AM. Leader Dave Bent, 410-822-2113.

Tri-county. Nanticoke River WMA for late migrants and early winter arrivals. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot. For information, contact Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net.

Friday, November 24

Anne Arundel. Blackwater NWR and Oakley Street in Cambridge, if time permits. This trip will be limited to 10 people and reservations are required. Scopes will be helpful. Bring snacks and/or lunch. Depending on the birding, we may stop on the way home for a bite to eat. Restroom facilities on site. 9 AM (full day). Meet at Bay 50 Shopping Center to carpool. Contact Barbara Ricciardi, 202-230-8492 or barbararicciardi27@gmail.com.

Saturday, November 25

Baltimore. Patterson Park. Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. 8 AM. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St & S Patterson Park Ave. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org.

Cecil. Eagle Watch at Conowingo Dam. The Dam is one of the premier eagle watching sites in the east. Some eagles breed near Conowingo and are present all year round, but the number of individuals peaks in the winter. It is normally possible to see as many as 60 individuals or more at one time; we have seen as many as 175! In addition to eagles, there will likely be other birds

of interest, particularly gulls and ducks. Bring scope if you have one. Optional: lawn chair, blanket, hot drinks, and snacks. Dress for possible extreme cold and windy conditions. 9 AM. Stay as little or as long as you want. Meet at Fisherman's Park below the Dam. Leader Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

■ **Harford.** Eagle Watch at Conowingo Dam. Look for a possible Golden Eagle among the more than 100 Bald Eagles along with just a few buzzards (actually, numerous Black Vultures). There will also be waterfowl and early winter songbirds. 8 AM. Meet at Fisherman's Park below the dam at the first parking lot straight ahead after passing through the gate at the south end of the park. Leader Dennis Kirkwood, 410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com.

■ **Washington.** Antietam Battlefield. Trip is co-sponsored with Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 8 AM. Meet at the Burnside Bridge parking lot for birding along the Final Attack Trail. Contact Sandy Sagalkin, sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465, to participate.

Sunday, November 26

■ **Anne Arundel.** Conowingo Dam. Located along the Susquehanna River, Conomingo Dam is famous for observing Bald Eagles. At this time of year the eagles congregate by the hundreds feeding on fish passing through the dam. After observing the eagles and gulls at the dam, we will walk down river looking for woodland birds and waterfowl. The river trail is dirt covered and flat. Restroom facilities on site. 7 AM (half day). Meet at Parole P&R. Contact Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

■ **Howard.** Centennial Park. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Handicap accessible. 8 AM, 2-3 hrs. Meet at west end parking lot. Leader Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net or 410-461-2408.

■ **Kent.** Kent County Landings. We will explore several of Kent County's landings and other spots for a variety of recently-arrived geese, ducks and

some non-waterfowl as well. Dress warmly & bring snacks. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the "Dollar General" parking lot off Philosopher's Terrace in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

■ **Montgomery.** Lilypons/New Design Rd. Wintering field birds, targeting Fox and Tree Sparrows, possibly Virginia Rail and American Bittern. Half day. Call leader for reservation (required) and more info. Leader Clive Harris, cliveharris@yahoo.com.

■ **Talbot.** Eastern Neck NWR. Burn off some Thanksgiving leftovers with a trip to one of Maryland's premier waterfowl wintering areas. Bring lunch, drinks. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 AM. Leader Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002.

Monday, November 27

MEETING. **Tri-county.** "Greenland" presented by *JoAnn Wilber*. 7 PM. MAC Education Center, off Snow Hill Rd, Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net, for more info.

Tuesday, November 28

MEETING. **Washington.** "The Limits of Endurance" from The Life of Birds with David Attenborough. Meeting begins at 7 PM at the Mt Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt Aetna Rd, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 for details.

Saturday, December 2

■ **Anne Arundel.** Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of the park, and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day.) Meet at the Park. Leaders Alan and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or alhmyoung@aol.com.

■ **Anne Arundel.** Oxbow Lake Nature Preserve. The preserve comprises approximately 200 acres of wetland and lowland wooded swamp. December provides the potential for a variety of waterfowl and more. This field trip will introduce participants to multiple entry points into the preserve. We will start at the main entrance on Oxbow Place at 8 AM and carpool to other areas. We will end with a walk along the lake from the

main entrance to Eagle's Head Cove and end by noon. Dress for the weather and for walking. No restroom facilities on site. 7:30 AM. Meet at Millersville Commuter Lot. Leaders Marcy Stutzman and Jay Sheppard. Contact Kevin Smith, 410-917-3004 or ravens3077@yahoo.com.

■ Carroll. Piney Run Park. Moderate walking around the lake. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the parking lot outside the gate to the Park on Martz Rd off White Rock Rd. Leaders Dave and Maureen Harvey, 410-795-3117.

■ Harford. Delaware Coast. Depending on recent sightings, several waterfowl and shorebird "hot spots" will be visited along the coast of the Delaware River and Bay. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Havre de Grace commuter parking lot near the I-95 exit along Rt 155. Contact Russ Kovach for details, 443-386-4787 or Russell.kovach@gmail.com.

■ Howard. Howard Waterfowl Search. Plan to visit the Columbia lakes to search for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons and other waterfowl. Easy walking involved. Plan to carpool. Bring lunch and drinks. Scopes helpful. Facilities available. 8 AM-2 PM. Meet at Broken Land Parkway parking lot at Lake Elkhorn. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krsschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

■ Kent. Eastern Neck Refuge Walk sponsored by Friends of Eastern Neck, Inc. Plan for a flat, two-mile outing, with opportunities to view waterfowl and other wildlife. Dress warmly and wear boots. No rain date. Registration is required and limited to 20 participants: <http://bit.ly/2vWPDBt>. 8 AM. For more information contact Gren Whitman, easterneckwalks@gmail.com or 443-691-9370.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

MOS BOARD MEETING. **Montgomery.** Seneca SP.

Sunday, December 3

■ Anne Arundel. Sandy Point SP. On this 2.5-mile walk, we will cover mostly even terrain while scouring the beach, water and wooded areas for

winter favorites. We can expect to see a variety of gulls and water fowl, as well as Ruby-crowned Kinglets and maybe a Brown Creeper or two. Restroom facilities on site. 8 AM (half day). Meet at Bay 50 Shopping Center to carpool. Contact Dominic Nucifora, 443-534-4891 or d.nucifora@yahoo.com.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Piscataway NP. Field trip to this facility on the Potomac River for wintering waterfowl, gulls, and songbirds. 8 AM. Meet at the fishing area at the north end of Wharf Road. Contact leader David Mozurkewich, mozurk@verizon.net or 301-509-2212, for more information.

■ Talbot. Cambridge, Egypt Road and Blackwater NWR. There may be an opportunity to join with Harry Armistead as he leads the bird walk at Blackwater NWR. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leader Dave Bent, 410-822-2113.

Tuesday, December 5

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Seasons at South Tract, Patuxent Research Refuge. One of a series of quarterly bird walks at the South Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge. We will walk some of the trails and will stop at the Pollinator Garden bird feeding area by the Visitor Center. Target species include migrating warblers, flycatchers, vireos, sparrows. 9 AM. Meet in the parking lot of the National Wildlife Visitor Center; bear left on entering the parking area and go all the way to the last section of the lot past the covered solar recharging station for electric vehicles. Please contact leader Ken Cohen, kvulture@aol.com, for more information.

Wednesday, December 6

■ Baltimore. First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Rice is Nice - Lessons for Bird Conservation" by *Paul Baicich*. 7 PM. Carroll Nonprofit Center in Westminster. Contact Don Jewell at jewelldg@gmail.com.

Thursday, December 7

HOLIDAY DINNER AND MEETING. **Frederick.** *Mark Abdy* will take us on safari to southern Africa and introduce us to the big game animals in addition to the wonderful birds. We will also hold our fantastic silent auction. 6 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms. Please make reservations with and send money to Treasurer Grace Borell, saygrace22@yahoo.com, before November 20. Make checks payable to FBC.

Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, December 9

Baltimore. Masonville Cove and Middle Branch Park. Breakfast with the Birds. Masonville Nature Center in Baltimore City welcomes BBC for donuts and coffee and a look at waterfowl in Baltimore Harbor. Landbirding is also good at Masonville; last year on this trip we had Fox Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird. We will visit both the area immediately behind the Nature Center and Access Area 2. Then we'll drive 5 minutes up the road to Middle Branch Park, another good spot for water birds. Telescopes useful. 8:30-11 AM. RSVP to the leader; trip limited to 25. Leader Peter Lev, 410-823-2962 or plev@comcast.net.

Baltimore. Special Eastern Shore Trip to Bombay Hook, DE. We will meet at the beginning of Whitehall Neck Rd, right after turning off from Rt 9 (Smyrna Leipsic Rd). After scoping the fields for Horned Larks, Meadowlarks, Pipits and other wintering residents, we will proceed to the refuge HQ, where we can look for White-crowned Sparrows and other nice birds at the feeders. Then it's off into the refuge itself for water birds, wintering shorebirds and land birds such as sparrows and raptors, and finish the day by getting lunch and then swinging by the Dover AFB Air Museum to check for Snowy Owls. Although the 2-2 1/2 hour driving time is doable in a single day, it can be worth staying overnight in Dover and exploring on Sunday before heading home. The refuge entry fee may be \$5 per car. This trip must be pre-registered. Leader John Robinson, 443-810-9059 (cell), 410-483-6620 (home), or jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

Frederick. Blackwater NWR. Search for wintering waterfowl at Maryland's premier wildlife refuge. Mostly driving with frequent stops. Scopes helpful. Leader Kathy Calvert, 301-810-5677.

Harford. Mariner Point, Joppatown. Avian activity will be surveyed with an emphasis on wintering waterfowl and songbirds at this estuarine location. 8 AM. Meet at the Mariner Point Park parking lot. Phil Powers is the leader, 443-417-7520 or birdsinmd308@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 10

Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. A monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. The park has waived the \$6 per car Park entry fee for these trips. 8-11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM (half day). Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

Talbot. Eastern Talbot Fields and Landings. There are birds in those apparently bare winter fields and lots to see at the landings along the Choptank and Tuckahoe Rivers. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Leader Charles Hopkins, 443-786-6332.

Tuesday, December 12

BOARD MEETING. **Baltimore.** While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

MEETING. **Kent.** Program and speaker TBA. 7:30 PM. Game Room at Heron Point, off East Campus Ave, Chestertown. Light refreshments follow the program.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SOCIAL AND MOVIE NIGHT. **Patuxent/PGAS.** Join the Patuxent Bird Club and Prince George's Audubon Society for popcorn

and other refreshments to enjoy during our annual movie night. One of the movies will be "Birds of May", filmed in May 2016 on the beaches of the Delaware Bay. The short movie is filmmaker Jared Flesher's ode to the natural spectacle of the Red Knot's annual visit to the Delaware Bay. The film is also an investigation of a potential new threat to Red Knot survival: the expansion of oyster aquaculture onto Red Knot feeding grounds. One or more additional films on birds and/or conservation may be added to the evening's roster; final movie titles TBA at a later date, so check www.patuxentbirdclub.org for more information. Free and open to the public. 7:30 PM. College Park Airport Operations Building.

Wednesday, December 13

MEETING. **Montgomery.** *Suzanne Dater* on her trip to Tanzania. Suzanne is a prize winning photographer and her program will feature not just birds but some of the animals found in Tanzania. The slide show she will be presenting will cover a trip she took to the Serengeti of Tanzania in 2016. Potomac Presbyterian Church. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 PM and meeting starts at 8 PM.

SPRING PLANNING MEETING AND COVERED DISH SUPPER. **Talbot.** 6 PM. Hosts Priscilla and Paul Thut, 410-745-6657 or pdthut@hughes.net.

Thursday, December 14

MEETING. **Howard.** "Monarch Butterflies: their Amazing Life History and Current Conservation Status," by *Pam Spencer* of the Baltimore County Master Gardeners. Pam is an emergency room nurse who finds time to work with butterflies in their several life stages and promote their conservation through educational programs. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Saturday, December 16

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Allegany.** Please contact JB Churchill, 301-697-1223 or jchurchi@atlanticbb.net.

■ Baltimore. Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main

entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754 or drbeanes@verizon.net.

■ Baltimore. Patterson Park. Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. 8-9:30 AM. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St & S Patterson Park Ave. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Caroline.** Coordinator Steve Westre, swestre26@comcast.net.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Catoctin.** Count #65. Birders of all ages and levels of experience needed! If you can't be in the field, but live within 7.5 miles of Thurmont, help by counting and reporting your feeder birds. Compiler Kathy Brown, 301-865-1369.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Charles Town, WV.** Includes a portion of MD in Washington Co. Compiler Bob Dean, bobdean52@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Garrett.** Please contact Connie Skipper, connieskipper@hohnet.net.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Middle River.** Birders of all levels of expertise or experience are welcome and urged to participate in this annual post-migration bird census in eastern Baltimore County. The area being surveyed is in a 15 mile diameter circle in eastern Baltimore County, encompassing Fort Howard up to Day's Cove at the mouth of the Gunpowder. This is a count of all birds seen or heard in the count circle. Contact compiler Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, for area assignment with one of the sector coordinators.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile east of Rte 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Triadelphia Reservoir.** Compiler David Holmes, musiclbnr@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Washington.** Contact Mark Abdy, mjabdy@yahoo.com or 301-432-7696, to participate. Tally and potluck dinner begin at 5 PM at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt Aetna Rd, Hagerstown. Please bring a dish to share. Place settings and drinks will be provided.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Washington, DC.** 75th Annual. For information on participating contact Carol Hayes, carol.hayes@ANShome.org or 301-652-9188 x10. Compiler Larry Cartwright, at prowarbler@verizon.net.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **York, PA.** The southern area of this count circle includes a portion of MD in northern Carroll Co. Alternate date Dec 30. Compiler is Bernard Frick, 717-843-6675 or bernardfrick@alum.lehigh.edu.

Sunday, December 17

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Elkton.** Full day census of all birds in a circle of 7.5-mile radius centered on Black Hill on Elk Neck. You may count in your choice of locations in the count circle, if you contact the compiler early. Count for full day or as much as you can. No experience necessary – if you are new to counting, you will be assigned to a team. Feeder watchers also welcome – count in your own backyard, if you are located within the count circle. Coordinator Russell Kovach, russell.kovach@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Jug Bay.** Volunteers are needed to census birds in a 15-mile diameter circle in the vicinity of Jug Bay. Choose your own start and stop times, then come to a tally rally at the end of the day to share your data and socialize. Contact compiler Sam Droege, sdroege@usgs.gov, to be put in touch with a sector leader to receive an area assignment.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Lower Kent County.** Covers area from south of Chestertown and Tolchester to Eastern Neck Island. Full day of counting, followed by count down dinner. Contact compiler Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com, for area assignments or more information.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Manassas-Bull Run, VA.** Compiler Bob Shipman, ships333@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Nassawadox.** Contact Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Point Lookout.** Contact Andy Brown, Andrew.Brown@calvertcountymd.gov.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Port Tobacco.** Contact Mike Callahan, raptorsrulemc@gmail.com or 240-765-5192.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Salisbury.** Join this traditional holiday birding event by contacting compiler Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Seneca.** Compiler is Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Southern Lancaster Co, PA.** 42nd consecutive year. Compiler Bob Schutsky, info@birdtreks.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Talbot/YMOS.** If you have not participated in the past, please give some thought to doing so this year. Count coordinator/compiler Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002 or wbell2@washcoll.edu. Potluck Dinner 5:30 PM. Christ Episcopal Church, St. Michael's, in parish hall. Compilation begins after dinner. Dinner coordinator Priscilla Thut, 410-745-6657 or pdthut@hughes.net. Call if you have a question about what to bring.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **YMOS.** Count will be in Talbot county. It is a wonderful experience but a very long day. Lodging will be provided Sat night for any participating students so that we can get the early start for an owl bonanza. Email George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance.

Wednesday, December 20

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "Going Inside the Nest: A Rare Look at Raptors along the Chesapeake Bay" with Teena Ruark Gorrow and Craig A. Koppie. Take a photographic journey through the Bald Eagle and Osprey nesting seasons with the authors/photographers of Inside a Bald Eagle's Nest, Inside an Osprey's Nest, and Mr. President and The First Lady. Get an insider's view of raptor activity along the Chesapeake Bay. 7-9 PM, Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Thursday, December 21

Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, December 23

Baltimore. Druid Hill Park. Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8-9:30 AM. Meet at 3001 East Dr. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Ctr at 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Calmes Neck, VA.** Compiler Margaret Wester, 540-336-9813 or margaretwester@hotmail.com.

Washington. Antietam Battlefield. Trip is co-sponsored with Potomac Valley Audubon Society. 8 AM. Meet at the Burnside Bridge parking lot for birding along the Final Attack Trail. Contact Sandy Sagalkin, sandy.sagalkin@gmail.com or 240-291-6465, to participate.

Wednesday, December 27

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Crisfield.** Compiler is Paul Bystrak, shrike@comcast.net.

Thursday, December 28

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Central Loudoun, VA and MD** (this count includes 5 miles along the C&O Canal in Montgomery Co, MD). Sign up online at www.loudounwildlife.org or contact compiler Joe Coleman, 540-554-2542 or joecoleman@rstarmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Ocean City.** Contact Mark Hoffman, wcbirding@gmail.com or 443-223-4587.

Saturday, December 30

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Cape Charles.** Contact George Armistead, armistead.george@gmail.com, or Ned Brinkley, thalassoica@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Lancaster, PA.** Compilers Barbara Hunsberger and Roger Stoner, 717-393-9030.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Rock Run.** Full day census of all birds in a circle of 7.5 mi radius centered on Rock Run Mill opposite Port Deposit. The count circle includes portions of Cecil County along the Susquehanna, from above Rte 1 and the Conowingo Dam south to Perryville. You may count in your choice of locations in the count circle, if you contact the compiler early. Feeder watchers also welcome – count in your own backyard, if you are located within the count circle. Count for full day or as much as you can. Must contact compiler Rick Cheicante, rickcheicante@cs.com, ahead of time for assignment to an area and for reporting forms and instructions.

Sunday, December 31

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Annapolis/Gibson Island.** Compilers are Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson, 410-647-7439 or hal.lynn@comcast.net, and Sue Ricciardi, 410-647-9513 or susiericc@comcast.net.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Chesterville.** Covers most of eastern Kent County & some of northern Queen Anne's. Full day of counting, followed by count down dinner. Contact compiler Maren Gimpel at 912-660-1541 for area assignments or more information.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Fort Belvoir.** Compiler Kurt Gaskill, kurtcapt87@verizon.net. MD sector Lynne Wheeler, somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Lititz, PA.** Compiler Ted Nichols II, 717-856-3851 or tanicholsii@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Patuxent River.** Contact Andy Brown, Andrew.Brown@calvertcountymd.gov.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Sugarloaf Mountain.** All are welcome! If you can't be in the field, but live within 7.5 miles of Sugarloaf peak, help by counting and reporting your feeder birds. Compiler Janet Millenson, janet@twocrows.com.

Monday, January 1, 2018

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Bowie.** Volunteers are needed to census birds in a 15-mile

diameter circle in the vicinity of Bowie. Choose your own start and stop times, then come to a tally rally at the end of the day to share your data and socialize. Contact compiler David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, to volunteer and to receive an assignment.

■ Harford. Perryman Area. Celebrate the New Year or recover from New Year's Eve by getting back to nature in the always productive Perryman Area. 8:30 AM. Meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot. Leader Phil Powers, 443-417-7520 or birds in md308@gmail.com.

■ Howard. Start Your Year List. Easy walking on paved paths and woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new! Facilities available. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Howard Conservancy - Mount Pleasant Farm. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

Wednesday, January 3

■ Baltimore. First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Thursday, January 4

MEETING. **Frederick.** Members Night or Quiz Night. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, January 5

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Inwood, WV.** Compiler Bob Dean, bobdean52@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Smith Island, MD and Tangier Island, VA.** Dependent on availability of hotels, restaurants, ferries, etc. Contact Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com for further information.

Saturday, January 6

■ Baltimore. Middle Branch Park and Southwest Area Park. We'll begin at one of the city's best spots for winter ducks, Middle Branch Park. Five species of diving ducks probable, with hundreds of individuals on good days. Then we'll head to SWAP, a vast former landfill now a Baltimore County park. Reliable for dabbling ducks, raptors, woodpeckers, and sparrows. Uncommon species show up yearly. 8 AM. Meet at Middle Branch Park in the main parking lot by the city rec office, 3301 Waterview Ave. Canceled in bad weather. Leader Frank Morgan, flm003@gmail.com or 410-487-1110.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. **Carroll.** Talk birds, eat, drink, and have fun with fellow birders. Sue and Splinter Yingling, hostess/host. 70 Ridge Rd, Westminster. 7:30 PM. Please coordinate with the Yinglings to bring a dish at syngling@mac.com or 410-857-0902.

MID-WINTER COUNT. **Frederick.** Meet at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary at 6:30 AM, and be prepared to visit all parts of the sanctuary's 129 acres. You may want your waterproof boots. Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

■ Kent. Friends of Eastern Neck NWR will sponsor a Refuge walk through areas normally closed to the public. A local birding expert or naturalist will guide the walk. Plan for a flat, two-mile outing of about two hours, with cocoa and cookies at Refuge Headquarters after. Bring binoculars and a

camera. Wear boots and dress warmly. No rain date. Registration is limited to 20, first-come, first-served. Children over 12 are permitted, but no dogs. Walks are free (with a tax-deductible donation payable to Friends of Eastern Neck appreciated to keep the program self-sustaining). To register at Eventbrite, go to: <http://bit.ly/2vWPDBt>. 8 AM. Meet at Refuge Headquarters. For more information, contact Gren Whitman, easternneckwalks@gmail.com or 443-691-9370.

■ Patuxent/PGAS. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

■ Tri-county. Coastal Birding trip from Ocean City, MD to Cape Henlopen, DE for winter coastal birding. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or the OC inlet parking lot at 8:30 AM. Leader is TBA, in the meantime, for information, contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

Sunday, January 7

COVERED DISH DINNER AND LECTURE.

Baltimore. Tonight's speaker is Joe Hanfman and the topic is "Birding Alaska." To reserve a place and tell us what you will bring, please use the website PerfectPotluck.com—detailed instructions will be sent out in December. 4:30 PM. Vollmer Center at Cylburn. For information contact coordinator Kevin Graff at keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, or call Peter Lev at 410-823-2962.



Maryland Ornithological Society

Sanctuary Fund Donation Form

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is pleased to announce that the children of Chandler and Eleanor Robbins have presented MOS with a generous gift of property in Garrett County, to be known as the Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run. In addition, MOS is purchasing additional land to increase the size of the Irish Grove MOS Sanctuary. Part of the purchase price will come from a bequest from the late Chandler Robbins. To fund the remainder of the purchase price for the Irish Grove land, MOS is seeking donations for its Sanctuary Fund. Donated funds will also provide for ongoing maintenance and operations of the new Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run, as well as the other nine MOS sanctuaries across the state. MOS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

Yes, I want to help the Maryland Ornithological Society maintain its sanctuaries and preserve the habitat so that future generations can continue to enjoy these special places.

Two ways to donate:

Please complete and mail this form with your check (made payable to Maryland Ornithological Society) to:
David Webb, MOS Treasurer
4141 Quail Way
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Donate online through the PayPal Giving Fund using your credit card or your PayPal account. Go to the MOS Donation webpage at
<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/2085860>

Thank you for your support!

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

Member of (enter MOS Chapter or other organization): _____

Amount of Donation _____

I wish to remain anonymous: or

Please acknowledge my gift in lists of donors published in the Maryland Yellowthroat and elsewhere

The MOS Sanctuaries

1. **NEW:** The Chandler & Eleanor Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run (Garrett County)
2. Carey Run Sanctuary (Garrett County)
3. Caroline W. Wilson Sanctuary (Garrett County)
4. Seymour B. Cooper Sanctuary (Frederick County)
5. Piscataway Sanctuary (Prince George's County)
6. Mandares Creek Sanctuary (Anne Arundel County)
7. Mill Creek Sanctuary (Talbot County)
8. Marengo Woods Sanctuary (Talbot County)
9. Myrtle Simon Pelot Sanctuary (Caroline County)
10. Irish Grove Sanctuary (Somerset County)

For more information on the MOS Sanctuaries,
please visit
www.mdbirds.org/sanctuary/sanctuaries.html

POSTMASTER: TIME-DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE EXPEDITE!

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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles, photos,
or ideas that would be of interest to other
birders.

Copy may be e-mailed to Richard Donham by
September 25, 2017 for the Nov/Dec 2017 issue.

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MOS Chapter Web Sites (to be consulted for the most up-to-date trip/meeting info)

Allegany/Garrett: westernmdbirding.com/

Anne Arundel: aabirdclub.org/

Baltimore: baltimorebirdclub.org/

Caroline: carolinebirdclubmos.blogspot.com/

Carroll: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/carroll.html

Cecil: cecilbirds.org/

Frederick: frederickbirdclub.org/

Harford: harfordbirdclub.org/

Howard: howardbirds.org/

Kent:

kentcounty.com/recreation/birding/birding-club

Montgomery: montgomerybirdclub.org/

Patuxent/PG: patuxentbirdclub.org/

Talbot: mdbirds.org/about/chapters/talbot.html

Tri-County (Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset):

tricountybirdclub.weebly.com/

Washington:

washingtoncountybirdclub.webs.com/

YMOS: ymos.org/